

GRAPESVINE

VISITACION VALLEY

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SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

DECEMBER 2003

Construction Continues on Bayshore Boulevard Overpass



Construction crews this fall have been widening the Bayshore Boulevard crossing over the US101 freeway.

Widening of the Bayshore Boulevard overpass at the US101 freeway continued through fall and will necessitate completely closing the freeway between Visitacion Valley and Brisbane each night from 12 midnight to 5 a.m. for at least one month beginning Dec. 8. Freeway traffic will be detoured

onto Bayshore Boulevard.

Sewer and waterline work, in the meantime, continued on the west side of Bayshore Boulevard, along with foundations for new streetlights.

Excavation is expected to commence soon in preparation for track work on the new Third Street Light

Rail. Also starting is boarding platform work at Bayshore and Sunnydale Avenue.

Meanwhile, realignment work is nearly complete to create a new intersection at Bayshore and Blanken Avenue. Blanken had been closed to through traffic at Tunnel Avenue the last few months.

Visitacion Valley Peacemaker Inspired Those Who Knew Him



DeShawn Dawson tutored other Valley youth at the Boys and Girls Club located at The Village on Schwern Street.

In remembering DeShawn Dawson at a Saturday morning memorial service Nov. 15, Principal Patricia Gray of Balboa High School described a determined young man whose optimism and peaceful nature was a stabilizing point amongst his peers —

an excellent student who had aspirations for higher learning and a future career as a psychiatrist.

As a Visitacion Valley resident, the 15-year-old Dawson was highly regarded in the community as a helpful friend — always willing to assist others. His afternoons were spent tutoring other students at the Boys and Girls Club located at The Village on Schwerin Street.

He was on a Muni bus and on his way to the volunteer position after school on Nov. 6 when a tragic incident occurred. According to a police report, students from both Burton and Balboa high schools got into a disagreement aboard the 29-Sunset as it reached Mission Street and Onondaga Avenue. As the scuffle escalated, a 16-year-old student pulled out a gun and fired two shots, one which struck Dawson in the head. He died two days later.

Ironically, he had earlier compiled a documentary on street violence containing segments he had wit-

nessed and filmed as a project for his high school media arts class.

Some of mourners attending the service the service at the San Francisco Christian Church wore white T-shirts in remembrance of Dawson bearing his picture and nickname — *D-Dirt*.

A number of local officials — including Mayor Willie Brown, SFUSD Superintendent Arlene Ackerman, District Attorney Terence Hallinan and Police Chief Alex Fagan Sr. — also attended. Chief Fagan reminded those in attendance not to seek vengeance for what had happened but to let the justice system handle the matter — sentiments expressed earlier that week by Dawson's aunt, Stacey Mays, who had raised him since age 3 with her own children at the Sunnydale housing complex.

Two Month Decline in California Gas Prices

California motorists experienced a second consecutive month of major declines in the price of gasoline and will likely see prices begin to level off in the coming weeks, according to a Nov. 11 survey from AAA of Northern California.

"California's retail gasoline market was due for this major correction," said AAA of Northern California spokeswoman Jenny Mack. "Average prices throughout the state have dropped 17 percent since mid-September."

Northern California motorists are paying an average \$1.75 per gallon for regular unleaded, a decline of 13 cents since AAA's last survey on Oct. 14. The statewide average price for California is now \$1.72, a 14 cent drop from the October report. Regionally, Bay Area motorists are almost in line with the rest of the region, paying an average \$1.76 per gallon, a 15 cent decline. In San Francisco, prices have dropped 10 cents, to \$1.88. Nationally, prices are at \$1.50, a decline of seven cents since the last AAA survey.

As California moves into the winter season when people tend to drive

S.F. Environment Starts Chinese Website

With the launch Oct. 24 of a Chinese language website, San Francisco's Environment Department is one click closer to reaching a critical but underserved community of internet users. The website addresses frequently asked questions about the environment, and includes full details about SF Environment programs for residents and businesses in the areas of recycling, composting, toxic materials reduction and disposal, and energy efficiency tips and services. SF Environment will add new information monthly.

The Asian community is San Francisco's single largest minority population, almost 31 percent according to the 2000 Census, and there are nearly 20,000 households in The City where Chinese is the only language spoken. The new Chinese language website, available at www.sfenvironment.org, reaches out to this linguistically isolated community with the range of programs S.F. Environment has to offer. And if San Francisco is going to meet its goal of 75 percent recycling by 2010, it is critical to have everyone participating to the fullest degree possible.

"Diversity is what makes San Francisco the jewel of the West. Our Chinese language website will help us

increase recycling, but more importantly it will help us bring important information about how to reduce toxics in the home in language that the users understand," explains S.F. Environment Director Jared Blumenfeld.

Users can navigate the site for information, or contact S.F. Environment for more details. The Website lists drop-off locations for various recyclable and reusable products, and informs the user about participating in the City's innovative recycling program, Fantastic Three. The Website also provides details about city programs for businesses and residents to dispose of potentially dangerous materials from used oil and latex paint, to solvents and old computers. Many of these services are free, and for seniors and the housebound, all of these services are free.

S.F. Environment's Chinese Website was developed in conjunction with SINA Corporation, an online media company and information service provider for Chinese communities locally and has an estimated 77 million registered users worldwide. The company also has a branded network of localized websites, which include online media, wireless, email, e-commerce, and other services.

FTC Checks Internet Retailers to Strengthen Consumer Confidence in Online Shopping

The Federal Trade Commission's Division of Enforcement on Nov. 10 announced that it recently conducted a surf of 51 Internet retailers selling holiday items to review "quick ship" claims, rebate offers, and other disclosures for certain popular items. As a result of the surf, the FTC staff sent letters to 37 e-tailers stating, "We want to make certain that you know that online sales are governed by many of the FTC-enforced statutes and regulations that apply to other forms of marketing and advertising. These statutes, rules, and guidelines protect businesses and consumers, and help maintain the integrity of the Internet as a solid retailing medium."

In announcing the surf results, Howard Beales, Director of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection, said, "As more consumers shop for their holiday purchases online, we want to be certain they get what they expect, when they expect it. Online shoppers should have as much knowledge of the product, warranties, and rebates as they would if they shopped in a brick and mortar store."

The FTC staff found that 44 sites made "quick ship" claims. Examples of these claims include statements that in-stock items usually ship within 24 to 48 hours after an order is placed, or that orders received before a certain time of day would be shipped that day — an important message for consumers trying to ensure that their orders arrive on time. Online shipping claims are governed by the FTC's Mail or Telephone Order Rule, which requires that sellers ship orders to buyers

within the time stated in the ad, or, if no time is stated, within 30 days after receiving the order. The FTC staff letters to e-tailers remind merchants that if they are unable to ship, for example, within a promised "48 hour" period, they must notify their customers within that period and give them the option to cancel their orders.

During the 1999 holiday season, many Internet sellers claimed they could ship extremely quickly, from "overnight" to 48 hours and 72 hours. Unfortunately, some were unable to ship when they said they would, and the FTC brought civil penalty actions against seven well-known

e-tailers for allegedly violating the Mail or Telephone Order Rule. The companies paid more than \$1.5 million in total penalties. The FTC staff found fewer problems during the 2000, 2001, and 2002 holiday seasons.

This year's surf found that 14 of the 16 sites selling warranted products failed to provide adequate information about the warranties. The FTC's Pre-Sale Availability Rule requires that written warranties on consumer products costing more than \$15 be made available to consumers before they buy, and specifies what retailers, including mail order and catalog sellers, must do to accomplish this. The FTC staff sent letters to these sites advising them to include on their websites either the full text of written warranties, or a general statement that warranties could be obtained free upon request. The letters also advised how clearly and properly labeled hyperlinks can be used to provide warranty information.

The FTC staff also advised two sites selling apparel to make FTC-required country-of-origin disclosures. The FTC's Rules and Regulations Under the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act (Textile Act) require that most textile products sold to consumers through print or online catalogs have an origin disclosure in the product information as to whether each item was "Made in USA," "imported," or both.

Finally, the staff also sent 11 sites offering rebates a letter advising them that to ensure that their advertising is not misleading, they should disclose in a clear and prominent manner: (1) the type of rebate offered (in-store or mail-in); (2) the material terms of the rebate offer; and (3) the total price consumers must pay at the time of purchase to receive the rebate. The letters also advised the sites to send their rebates to consumers within the time promised or within a reasonable time if no time-frame is mentioned.

With the holiday season fast approaching, the Commission encourages consumers to be wise and savvy shoppers. Whether looking for toys, trinkets, or a travel deal, holiday shopping on the Internet can be fun, easy and practical.

Many Refund and Credit Checks Returned to IRS

WASHINGTON - IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson reminded taxpayers they have until Dec. 5 to claim 115,744 undelivered checks from this summer's advance child tax credit. After the December cut-off, taxpayers cannot claim the checks until they file their tax returns next year.

These undelivered checks are among nearly 24 million issued this summer and fall for the advance child tax credit. In all, more than \$14 billion in child credit checks have been issued.

"Time is running out to get an advance child credit check," Everson said. "We encourage taxpayers to visit IRS.gov to see if they have an undelivered check from the advance

child tax credit mail-out."

In all, the IRS has money for more than 200,000 taxpayers whose income tax refund or advance child tax credit checks were undelivered and returned to the agency. Taxpayers need to update their addresses before the IRS can reissue the checks, which total more than \$118 million.

In addition to the 115,744 child credit checks worth more than \$50 million, there were another 92,810 "regular" tax refund checks, those issued to refund tax overpayments, returned to the IRS as undelivered. These "regular" refund checks total more than \$66 million — an average of \$722 per check.

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Visitacion Valley Pedestrian Safety Supplement

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Grapevine Mailbox

New Driver's License Law and Constitution

Dear Editor:

Consider the California driver's license. What an E-ticket item it is! Besides letting you tool down the freeways, in many cases it's all the ID you need to borrow a video, buy groceries or board an airliner. So when then California Gov. Gray Davis signed SB 60, allowing driver's licenses for people who are here in violation of immigration rules, he was presenting the keys to the city — and the state and the nation — to folks flouting federal law.

Is it legal for state officials to do that? So far, debate over SB 60 has focused on its policy implications. Giving a pass to people who come here by cutting corners, critics argue, isn't fair to aspiring immigrants who play by the rules. And in this Age of Al Qaeda — with red, orange and yellow alerts putting people on edge — it flashes a dangerous green light to people who might come here with sinister intentions.

But beyond these practical concerns, questions of law must be addressed. This is what Pacific Legal Foundation does in litigation filed Monday, November 10 to void California's new scheme giving driver's licenses to illegal aliens. Representing Latino Americans for Immigration Reform, a Santa Ana-based advocacy group, PLF makes three legal arguments:

1. SB 60 intrudes on federal authority over immigration.

The United States Constitution gives Congress sole responsibility for setting a "uniform rule of naturalization." As the Supreme Court put it in a 1971 ruling, it's the role of the federal government — not the states — to determine "what aliens shall be admitted to the United States, the period they may remain [and] regulation of their conduct before naturalization."

SB 60 violates this rule by treading on Congress' turf. A driver's license is the closest thing we have to a national ID card. It eases an individual's movement and day-by-day functioning anywhere in the country. For California to give what amounts to an internal passport to people who aren't in the United States legally is the practical equivalent of setting up its own state-level protocol for immigration.

This directly challenges the federal government's constitutional power to say who may come in to the country, for how long, and on what terms.

2. SB 60 promotes voter fraud.

Under the federal "Motor Voter" law, applicants for driver's licenses must also receive voting registration forms. With SB 60 inviting illegal aliens to the DMV, this means they'll be getting voter registration forms as well. And why should we expect that people who are already breaking immigration laws will scruple about registering to vote, no matter what fine print is printed on the registration form?

Bottom line: SB 60 makes it more likely that illegal immigrants will get on the voting rolls, so their votes can, unconstitutionally, cancel out the votes of American citizens.

3. SB 60 illegally restricts information-sharing with federal authorities.

SB 60 prevents the DMV, except in limited circumstances, from releasing to anyone, including federal immigration and homeland security authorities, information about the use of taxpayer ID numbers by driver's license applicants. A taxpayer ID would be used by someone who isn't eligible for a Social Security number — which means, in most cases, someone who's not in the country legally.

Federal law prohibits any restriction on a state sharing information on any individual's immigration status with immigration officials, the Department of Homeland Security and other agencies.

Federal law also prohibits shielding illegal aliens from detection, or inducing persons to enter or reside in the country illegally.

California violates all of these restrictions when it gives driver's licenses to illegal aliens and holds back information from the feds.

The United States is, proudly, a nation of newcomers. But it is also a nation of laws. Indeed, it is that unshakable fact that has made the United States free and prosperous, drawing the "tired, poor" — and eager and ambitious — from around the globe. If this nation is to remain a beacon of hope for immigrants, it must always reaffirm the rule of law. An essential step, right now, is to strike down SB 60.

Harold Johnson and William S. Mount, attorneys with Pacific Legal Foundation.

Congressional Candidate On Marijuana Laws

Dear Editor:

I have heard all of the discussion on the marijuana problems in the past 40 years and it is time to put this dog to rest.

The current Federal laws prohibit the possession and use of marijuana and anyone found guilty lose their federal benefits, such as Medicare, Medicaid, Student Assistance such as PELL grants, Public Housing, and voting rights, just to name a few. I demand that all persons over the age of 18 be tested for marijuana, and if they are found to have "possession" that they endure the

Don't Let Your Car Catch a Cold This Winter

The temperature doesn't have to drop very far before we sense some inconvenience and discomfort in our driveway. While drivers can't do anything about the weather, they can alter their morning routine in ways that make winter car trips less numbing, says AAA of Northern California.

AAA reminds motorists that although today's vehicles are more reliable than those made years ago, some things never change — frost still forms on windows, doors ice up, batteries run down and seats seem to take forever to warm up.

"Sometimes, coping with all the minor difficulties of getting our vehicles going in cold weather can lead to unsafe driving practices," said Jenny Mack, AAA of Northern California spokeswoman. "Driving with windows not fully cleared of frost, struggling to peer through still foggy windshields, or hoping the battery won't die after it has been jump started, are less than ideal conditions for a morning commute."

To help motorists cope with their cold cars, AAA offers the following advice:

*Use your garage if you have one. Park the family vehicle outside during summer if you must, but have a garage sale and then pull the car

torturous penalties already enacted by the zero tolerance crowd.

For every person who gets knocked from programs will mean more money to test which is so inexpensive anyway. This is a simple solution. Then we would know exactly who smokes pot. We have already given up the rights to privacy through the new anti terrorism laws, so there is no legal challenge for this, just let the President sign it because "marijuana supports terrorism" according to the White House.

Let us stop the war on pot, and concentrat on more pressing issues. Actually it could include all illegal and legal drugs, if you are not currently prescribed that is illegal also. The national pay out could be tremendously reduced, and the savings could be used for more prisons, and incarcerations.

Just seize the assets of the person who is in possession and use that to pay for the enforcement. Just think Rush Limbaugh's assets alone could be used to build a medium sized prison. Then the jobless, but "drug free could work for the government."

Sound good? Well lets just do it and stop talking about it! Or if you think that the war on marijuana is a farce, and too costly and without merit, then re-legalize it. Funny ... sounds so easy doesn't it? Tax the pot, use the tax dollars for education instead of eradication. Alcohol and cigarette are far more dangerous to the American public, but they are taxed and of course are "big business." Stop the folly and get on the trolley. Apply the laws equally or get rid of them.

Brian K. Meyer,
Meyer for Congress 2004

inside if possible this winter.

*If you must park outside, check your vehicle first thing in the morning. Be sure to allot at least an extra five minutes to properly defrost the windows and let your vehicle warm up.

*If the door locks are frozen, fill a container with lukewarm water and pour it on the lock. This should melt the ice away enough for you to insert a key and unlock the door. Don't try to chip the ice away with your key as this may damage the key and your car's finish. (Never pour hot water on windows. They may crack.)

*Start the car, making sure the transmission is in park and the brake is set. If the vehicle is inside, open the garage door so carbon monoxide doesn't build up in the garage. Switch the heater to defrost setting. Turn on the rear window defroster, if you have one.

"One of the most common and frustrating problems encountered during cold weather is battery failure," said Mack. "The only sure way to know your battery will be there for you on those cold mornings is to have it tested by a reliable repair shop. This is especially true of any battery more than two years old."

Thank You to Those Who Keep Us Safe and Secure

by CA Attorney General Bill Lockyer

At Thanksgiving, we are grateful for family, friends, food and shelter, and for living in a state and nation blessed with more freedom, opportunities and natural resources than anywhere in the world. It is also a time to be grateful for those we might too often take for granted: the many of our fellow Californians who keep our families, homes and neighborhoods safe and secure.

Our safety and security does not just happen by chance. It is the result of the heroic sacrifices of law enforcement, fire and emergency personnel, and the work of untold numbers of volunteers and others in our communities to keep residents safe and prevent crime and violence.

Thousands of firefighters worked through exhaustion to battle the recent raging blazes in Southern California. One firefighter, Steve Rucker of Novato, died, leaving behind a wife and two young children. Several other firefighters were injured. Volunteers brought food and clothing to people displaced by the fires. The Red Cross set up shelters. Many neighbors assisted in evacuating families and pets.

With a disaster of this magnitude we witness the heroic acts of firefighters, emergency personnel and volunteers on television and in newspapers. Yet, often their hard work goes unrecognized during "routine" fires. Firefighters respond to an average 6,300 wild fires, and more than 286,000 other emergencies each year, according to the California Department of Forestry. That Department employs 3,800 full-time fire professionals, foresters and administrative employees and 1,400 seasonal firefighters. In addition, local government provides 5,600 volunteer firefighters and 2,600 citizen Volunteers in Prevention. More than 4,300 inmate wards participate in fire crews. All of these firefighting crews risk their lives for our safety and deserve our thanks.

Similar acts of sacrifice by law enforcement can often go unnoticed. Local and state law enforcement has worked harder than ever during these tough economic times to solve and prevent crime in California. The number of violent crimes — homicides, rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults — decreased by 3.7 percent during the first half of 2003 compared to the same period last year. California's crime levels remain at 30-year lows.

These successes in bringing crime down come at a high price for many of our nearly 80,000 peace officers. Already this year, 13 members of our law enforcement community have lost their lives. Oceanside Police Department Officer Tony Zeppetella, 27, pursuing a lifelong dream of becoming a police officer, was shot to death during a routine traffic stop by a known gang member. Officer Zeppetella left behind a wife and infant son. On August 2, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Deputy Stephen Sorensen, 46, responding to a trespassing call, was fatally shot by a criminal with a lengthy record. He left behind his wife and two sons.

On the California Peace Officers' Memorial monument in Sacramento is inscribed a poem by Sgt. George Hahn, Los Angeles Police Department (retired), which begins: "I never dreamed it would be me/My name for all eternity/Recorded here at this hallowed place/Alas, my name, no more my face./In the line of duty" I hear them say/My family now the price will pay/My folded flag stained with their tears/We only had those few short years."

As we celebrate Thanksgiving in the security and warmth of our homes, and among family that we love, let us also give thanks to those who risk their lives every day so that we and our loved ones can live safe and free.

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Come to Church This Week

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Mugged by the State

by *Randall Fitzgerald*

Seized property. Impounded vehicles. Land confiscation. America is overrun by out-of-control regulations and inflexible policies that are taking advantage of its citizens. Think that only happens to criminals? Think it couldn't happen to you? Think again.

Across the country, from California to Maine, small business owners and families are being targeted by their own government, sometimes because of outdated rules and regulations, other times to extort money from those too weak to fight back, and still more times to justify the existence of bloated government agencies. These actions amount to legal muggings, complete with financial hardship, a sense of loss, and lasting embitterment.

Mugged for the Environment

Huge U.S. Army helicopters conducting regular surveillance of a California grape growing family sounds like a twisted conspiracy theory, but for Fred and Nancy Cline, the conspiracy was all too real. During the 1990s, the Clines were struck by a bolt of regulatory lightning in the form of a cease and desist order from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The violation? The Clines were accused of leveling and grading a portion of their property that contained "wetlands." This charge that was only the start of systematic government harassment that lasted over four years. Although their case was eventually

dropped due to insufficient evidence, army helicopter flyovers continued periodically for months afterward to ensure the Clines were not trying to cultivate parts of their land illegally. Meanwhile, the family was the constant victim of harassment by the Army Corps, the Justice Department, and the FBI; their friends and colleagues were interrogated, and the Clines were threatened with imprisonment and financial ruin.

Even though they were never prosecuted, the Clines were left with acres of land that they were legally prohibited from using, a typical example of how the U.S. government's inflexible and misguided policies do more harm than good.

Mugged by Health and Safety Regulations

Working 18-hour days, seven days a week was not Judy Hooper's ideal way to spend her time, but she knew it was what she had to do to make ends meet at her bakery in Evanston, Illinois. When a representative from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration showed up to conduct an unannounced inspection of her facilities, Hooper was surprised, but not worried.

That unnamed investigation was nothing less than a fishing expedition, designed to compile a list of flimsy "violations" of OSHA regulations. Hooper received a letter from OSHA, fining her for over \$13,000, including a \$2,500 fine for failing to have a "hazard communication program". This program is intended to train employees on how to protect themselves against hazardous chemicals; even though the only chemicals used in the bakery were common household bleach and dishwashing liquid. Hooper paid her fines, but is still recovering from her own government's legal mugging of her small business.

Mugged to "Protect" the Disadvantaged

Russell Vernon of Akron, Ohio, owner of West Point Market, was surprised to receive a letter from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; and shocked when the letter accused him of discriminating against blacks in his hiring practices.

The ensuing settlement proposal was nearly unfathomable. Vernon was told to undertake time-consuming and costly actions to correct the supposed problem. These actions included taking out full-page ads solely aimed at blacks, imposing a 33 percent minority hiring quota, and paying nearly \$100,000 to 24 African-Americans that the EEOC singled out as having been denied employment at West Point.

Vernon, knowing he was innocent and determined to save his reputation, decided to fight the EEOC. Hiring his own statistical analyst, Vernon demonstrated that he had hired African-Americans at the rates expected for his location and labor pool needs. He also received support from outraged leaders of the local African-American community, including a petition signed by the entire board of the community's NAACP.

After months of negotiations and countless legal fees, Vernon accepted a more lenient settlement but not without an enduring bitterness that an irrational government bureaucracy and poor research methods on the part of the EEOC had caused an unnecessary, arbitrary ordeal.

Fighting Back

Too often, the rules imposed by all levels of government are inflexible, one size-fits-all mandates that confuse and abuse those who must comply. Placing the burden of social costs, like environmental protectionism, on private citizens is unfair. Compensation and specific legal protections need to be more institutionalized so that a small minority is not paying for an entire group of people.

Similarly, regulatory agencies must learn to see in shades of gray. Fair applications of laws, not bureaucratic egos, should be behind all enforcement procedures. We are a nation of laws, yet the foundation of respect for them must always depend on fairness, not fear.

If you're being mugged by the state, try the following resources:

*Institute for Justice, www.ij.org

*Castle Coalition, www.castlecoalition.org

*Defenders of Property Rights, www.defenderpropertyrights.org

Randall Fitzgerald is the author of the book Mugged By The State: Outrageous Government Assaults On Ordinary People And Their Property (Regnery Publishing, Canis Institute) released Nov. 10). To order call 1-800-767-1241

When Not to File An Insurance Claim

by *Liz Pulliam Weston*

You know your insurance is there for you when you need it. However, it's important to know when you need it.

After losing \$19 billion between 2000 and 2002, insurers are dumping consumers who file too many or the wrong type of claims. In fact, some people have even found themselves without coverage after consulting with their agent about whether to file. It may sometimes be better in the long run to pay out of pocket.

While there's no clear-cut way to determine when to file, there are four common scenarios when you might find your insurance carrier would prefer not to hear from you. Companies often view these as red flags when calculating premiums and evaluating policyholders:

*The damage is under \$1,000. Many consumers keep premiums down by raising their deductibles to \$500 or even \$1,000 and not making claims for less than that. It may sometimes be better to raid your emergency fund than to risk higher premiums or nonrenewal. In addition, filing a small claim can count against you if you ever need to file a bigger claim.

*No one was hurt. If you're in a one-car mishap or you hit an unoccupied vehicle, you might consider paying for the damage yourself if you can afford the tab. Paying for an accident out-of-pocket may be cheaper than facing higher premiums, especially if your driving history is less than pristine.

*The damage involves water or mold. Consumers who make water damage claims risk losing their coverage and may even find that coverage is unavailable at any price. Worse, if future potential buyers have trouble getting a policy because of past claims, you may have a tough time selling your home.

*The damage resulted from your neglect. No less than in court, you should go to your insurer with clean hands. Most homeowners

policies specifically exclude problems that result from pest infestations, rot and other indications that you've failed to properly maintain your home. You're also on the hook if you make a bad problem worse. If a windstorm blows off part of your roof and you leave the hole uncovered, you might lose coverage for contents that were exposed to further damage.

Homeowners Stalked by Wave of Tax Increases

by *Jon Coupal and Trevor Grimm*

Every year after the new property tax bills are mailed, the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association receives hundreds of calls and e-mails asking about new charges over and above the two percent tax increase limit permitted by Proposition 13.

While Proposition 13 keeps the tax on "land" and "improvements" under control, in most cases the additional increases are due to "below the line charges," which include fees, assessments, voter approved bonds and parcel taxes.

While most of these new levies require approval by voters or by property owners, local agencies have become expert at getting new taxes passed by mustering their allies and by limiting the amount of information given to the general public.

Parcel taxes are rapidly becoming the money-grabbing vehicle of choice for some tax-o-crats. These taxes are extremely regressive. Since Proposition 13 limits tax increases that are based on the inflating value of property, parcel taxes get around this by levying a fixed amount per parcel or, in some cases, by establishing charges based on the square footage of a lot or its improvements.

Parcel taxes are especially unfair to homeowners in that in most jurisdictions some 80 to 90 percent of the tax burden falls on single-family residential parcels. It is not uncommon for these taxes to be in the triple digits, and the taxes paid are in addition to all of the other levies that appear on the property tax bill. Additionally, people who live outside the taxing district can

All this doesn't mean you can never use your policy, but a little restraint, especially these days, will help ensure it's there for you.

For more information on your insurance rights and needs, visit MSN Money at money.msn.com or check out the planning tools in personal finance software, Microsoft Money.

NAPS

benefit from the public services bought with parcel taxes even though they do not live in, or pay taxes in, the parcel-taxed jurisdiction. Although under Proposition 13 parcel taxes require a two-thirds vote, they are relatively easy to pass since everyone gets to vote regardless of obligation to pay. The problem for taxpayers is compounded by the failure of most agencies to provide a clearly written ballot question. While property owners may learn that the measure is for a \$125 parcel tax, it may not be made clear that this is an annual, ongoing commitment.

Officials covet parcel taxes because, unlike bonds, which must be used for structural or capital improvements, they can be used for ongoing operating expenses including salaries. There is no limit on the number of parcel taxes that can be proposed or the amount of the tax.

The number of parcel taxes proposed in 2003 has set an all-time record. As more parcel taxes are passed, taxpayers can expect to see more parcel taxes on the ballot. And that's not the worst news.

Remember that the tax-and-spend lobby financed Proposition 39 in November of 2000. That lowered the traditional two-thirds vote to approve local school bonds, setting a new lower standard for raising taxes on property owners. We taxpayers must be ready to combat efforts to lower the passing threshold for parcel taxes to 55 percent which we know is coming.

A 55 percent passing standard would assure that virtually every parcel tax would pass. This would be a disaster for homeowners.

An Interesting Exam For Aging Baby Boomers

1. In the 1940s, where were automobile headlight dimmer switches located?

a. On the floor shift knob; b. On the floorboard, to the left of the clutch; c. Next to the horn.

2. The bottle top of a Royal Crown Cola bottle had holes in it. For what was it used?

a. Capture lightning bugs; b. To sprinkle clothes before ironing; c. Large saltshaker.

3. Why was having milk delivered a problem in northern winters?

a. Cows got cold and wouldn't produce milk; b. Ice on highways forced delivery by dog sled; c. Milkmen left deliveries outside of front doors and milk would freeze, expanding and pushing up the cardboard bottle top.

4. What was the popular chewing gum named for a game of chance?

a. Blackjack; b. Gin; c. Craps!

5. What method did women use to look as if they were wearing stockings when none were available due to rationing during W.W.II?

a. Surtan; b. Leg painting; c. Wearing slacks.

6. What postwar car timed automotive design on its ear when you couldn't tell whether it was coming or going?

a. Studebaker; b. Nash Metro; c. Tucker.

7. Which was a popular candy when you were a kid?

a. Strips of dried peanut butter; b. Chocolate licorice bars; c. Wax coke-shaped bottles with colored sugar water inside.

8. How was Butch wax used?

a. To stiffen a flattop haircut so it stood up; b. To make floors shiny and prevent scuffing; c. On the wheels of roller skates to prevent rust.

9. Before inline skates, how did you keep your roller skates attached to your shoes?

a. With clamps, tightened by a skate key; b. Woven straps that crossed the

foot; c. Long pieces of twine.

10. As a kid, what was considered the best way to reach a decision?

a. Consider all the facts; b. Ask Mom; c. Eeny-meeny-miney-mo

11. What was the most dreaded disease in the 1940's?

a. Smallpox; b. AIDS; c. Polio.

12. "I'll be down to get you in a _____, Honey"

a. SUV; b. Taxi; c. Streetcar.

13. What was the name of Caroline Kennedy's pet pony?

a. Old Blue; b. Paint; c. Macaroni

14. What was a Duck-and-Cover Drill?

a. Part of the game of hide and seek; b. What you did when your Mom called you in to do chores; c. Hiding under your desk, and covering your head with your arms in an A-bomb drill.

15. What was the name of the Indian Princess on the Howdy Doody show?

a. Princess Summerfallwinterspring; b. Princess Sacajewwa; c. Princess Moonshadow.

16. What did all the really savvy students do when mimeographed tests were handed out in school?

a. Immediately sniffed the purple ink, as this was believed to get you high; b. Made paper airplanes to see who could sail theirs out the window; c. Wrote another pupil's name on the top, to avoid your failure.

17. Why did your Mom shop in stores that gave Green Stamps with purchases?

a. To keep you out of mischief by licking the backs, which tasted like bubble gum; b. They could be put in special books and redeemed for various household items; c. They were given to the kids to be used as stick-on tattoos.

18. Praise the Lord, and pass the _____?

a. Meatballs; b. Dames; c. Ammunition.

19. What was the name of the singing group that made the song "Cabdriver" a hit?

a. The Ink Spots; b. The Supremes; c. The Esquires.

20. Who left his heart in San Francisco?

a. Tony Bennett; b. Xavier Cugat; c. George Gershwin

Answers:

1. b) On the floor, to the left of the clutch. Hand controls, popular in Europe, took till the late '60s to catch on.

2. b) To sprinkle clothes before ironing. Who had a steam iron?

3. c) Cold weather caused the milk to freeze and expand, popping the bottle top.

4. a) Blackjack Gum.

5. b) Special makeup was applied, followed by drawing a seam down the back of the leg with eyebrow pencil.

6. a) 1946 Studebaker.

7. c) Wax coke bottles containing super-sweet colored water.

8. a) Wax for your flat top (butch) haircut.

9. a) With clamps, tightened by a skate key, which you wore on a shoestring around your neck.

10. c) Eeny-meeny-miney-mo.

11. c) Polio. In beginning of August, swimming pools were closed. Movies and other public gathering places were closed to try to prevent spread of the disease.

12. b) Taxi. Better be ready by half-past eight!

13. c) Macaroni.

14. c) Hiding under your desk, and covering your head with your arms in an A-bomb drill.

15. a) Princess Summerfallwinterspring. She was another puppet.

16. a) Immediately sniffed the purple ink to get a high.

17. b) Put in a special stamp book, they could be traded for household items at the Green Stamp store.

18. c) Ammunition, and we'll all be free.

19. a) The all male, all black group: The Inkspots.

20. a) Tony Bennett

Scoring:

17 - 20 correct: You are not only older than dirt, but obviously gifted with mind bloat. Now if you could only find your glasses. Definitely a Geezer!

12 - 16 correct: Not quite dirt yet, but your mind is definitely muddy.

0 - 11 correct: You are a sad excuse for a geezer or are younger than springtime!

Poor Rix's Almanac

by *Rix Quinn*

Dear Poor Rix: Seems like each year more people enter political contests. What makes so many do this? - Future Councilman

As you know, it takes three things to run for public office: a red tie, a blue suit, and green money from gray contributors.

What can you buy for that green dough? Well, like a nudist, a candidate looks for exposure. But to get exposure, he must publicize an issue.

Controversial issues include gun control, income taxes, and states' rights. My favorite is the "Annual Surfing Issue." I've never seen anybody run on it, although I've seen people run for it.

Next, a candidate needs a "loving family." These people surround him at public events, and nod their heads up and down anytime he says something, or even burps rhythmically.

If the candidate's family is not supportive, he should rent a new one.

Finally, a candidate needs a "stump speech," a short, scripted talk that sounds spontaneous, even when delivered 11 times a day.

Listeners generally applaud better schools, more parades, and happy songs. They rarely support higher taxes, lowered expectations, or local pervers.

Poor Rix would like to run too, but the only position I've got on parades is "not behind the elephants."

Dear Poor Rix: I just returned from a visit to a petrified forest. What can you tell me about these old trees? - Woodsman

Except for a few movie stars with good make-up, nobody's older than a petrified forest. Some of these tree trunks are 150 million years old. That's over a billion in dog years...uh, I mean log years.

The trees got trapped in mud way back in prehistoric times, and couldn't get out. Underground water got into their trunks, washing minerals through their pores. (I know this happens, because I've swum in underground water, and it got into my trunks, too.)

Anyway, water transports minerals. Over time these minerals turn the trunks into stone. These buried logs, when uncovered, often lie stacked together. None of them stand up. But if you were dead, you couldn't stand up either.

There they lie around our country, devoid of leaves and branches. They remind us that if you're a stick-in-the-mud, you'll miss lots of fun.

Also, you don't want to go to a petrified forest to select a holiday tree. The rocklike wood will break your ax. Also, they're impossible to decorate.

So remember the lesson of the petrified forest: Stand up as long as you can...and keep that water out of your trunks.

Poor Rix offers had answers to good questions. E-mail him at rxquinn@charter.net

Book Reviews

Living a Meaningful Life

"Purpose" is a word that is increasingly in vogue; people want to have a purpose, to find a purpose. Now, a new book examines another dimension of purpose: a large-scale commitment that focuses talents, skills, thoughts and energies in an enduring manner.

For 20 years, William Damon has written widely on moral development at all ages of human life. In *Noble Purpose: The Joy of Living a Meaningful Life* (Templeton Foundation Press, \$12.95), he talks about "finding something that you can truly believe in, something so worth accomplishing that you dedicate yourself to it wholeheartedly, without qualm or self-interest...devoting yourself to a cause, or to many causes, that you consider noble purposes."

However, not all purposes are noble. To qualify as noble purpose, the why of the deed, as well as its how, must be guided by a strong moral sense, explains Damon. Finding noble purpose means devoting ourselves to something worth doing and doing it in an honorable manner.

Drawing on religious, philosophical and literary writings, Damon defines the qualities that transform purpose into noble purpose. He further guides readers to an understanding of both the psychological and spiritual significance of purpose by examining the idea that "life without purpose is a life wasted." He shows how people from many cultures throughout history have pursued noble purposes by answering God's call as each has heard it, and he looks at the everyday faces of noble purpose-how noble purpose can be found in activities and settings that may seem quite ordinary.

Damon points out that noble purpose requires humility. Our purposes should never be a means toward self-aggrandizement, but rather the alignment of self to a higher cause. But where do we find our own noble purpose? How can we be sure it is the right way to spend our time and energy? Damon presents nine principles that can facilitate a quest for purpose and questions we can ask ourselves in order to ensure that our purpose is a noble one.

International Intrigue

The second in a three-book series of thrillers by Oliver North, the highly-decorated marine colonel who served on President Reagan's National Security Staff has arrived. *The Jericho Sanction* (Broadman & Holman, \$24.99), a tale of international intrigue set in Israel and Iraq, continues the story of Peter Newman-a Marine lieutenant colonel who had been assigned to the National Security Council to orchestrate the most sensitive covert actions ever undertaken against America's adversaries.

It was an operation that went horribly wrong and Newman continues to pay the price. Delving once again into the chilling issues that have become all the more relevant since the devastating terrorist strikes in New York and Washington, D.C., two years ago, North continues to explore the likelihood that at least some nuclear weapons were stolen in the chaos that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union,

and the inevitability of those weapons eventually finding their way into the hands of nations that sponsor terrorism.

When asked why he chose *The Jericho Sanction* as the title for his book, North had this to say.

"Because the ultimate catastrophe in the Middle East is going to be a nuclear exchange. The Jericho Sanction is the real-life code name for an Israeli preemptive strike against any hostile nation threatening to attack the Jewish state with a weapon of mass destruction. It takes its name from the Jericho nuclear missiles that Israelis will use to carry out such a strike."

Critics report that North's experience in the field-whether as a Marine rifle platoon commander in Vietnam or as part of the team that traveled to secure the release of the long-held American hostages in the 1980s-gives the grand action of the book an authenticity that can only come from personal experience. North's writing was influenced by the time he spent in Iraq earlier this year as an embedded correspondent for Fox News.

Oliver North was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts during his 22 years of service as a U.S. Marine. *The Jericho Sanction* is already a New York Times bestseller as was North's first novel in the series, the award-winning *Mission Accomplished*.

NAPS

A Box of Cigars

The following is a true story and first place winner in a recent Criminal Lawyers Award Contest

A Charlotte, NC, lawyer purchased a box of 24 very rare and expensive cigars then insured them against fire among other things. Within a month having smoked his entire stockpile of these great cigars and without yet having made even his first premium payment on the policy, the lawyer filed a claim against the insurance company. In his claim, the lawyer stated the cigars were lost "in a series of small fires."

The insurance company refused to pay, citing the obvious reason: that the man had consumed the cigars in the normal fashion. The lawyer sued and won. In delivering the ruling the judge agreed with the insurance company that the claim was frivolous. The Judge stated nevertheless, that "the lawyer held a policy from the company in which it had warranted that the cigars were insurable and also guaranteed that it would insure them against fire, without defining what is considered to be unacceptable fire," and was obligated to pay the claim.

Rather than endure lengthy and costly appeal process, the insurance company accepted the ruling and paid \$15,000 to the lawyer for his loss of the rare cigars lost in the "fires."

After the lawyer cashed the check, the insurance company had him arrested on 24 counts of arson. With his own insurance claim and testimony from the previous case being used against him, the lawyer was convicted of intentionally burning his insured property and was sentenced to 24 months in jail and a \$24,000 fine.

Healthy Ideas

*For people with serious medical conditions such as cardiovascular disease, chronic heart failure, cancer or diabetes, there may be an additional health risk that could go overlooked or untreated: anemia. According to the National Anemia Action Council, anemia is associated with increased mortality (risk of death), increased morbidity (risk of disease) and decreased quality of life. By helping people to identify the signs and symptoms of anemia talk to their doctors about diagnosis and treatment, NACC is focused on raising awareness of anemia, stimulating new research and treatment approaches and improving patient outcomes. To learn more, visit www.anemia.org.

An Amazing Test

There are 29 questions about things we see every day or have known about all our lives. How many can you get right? These little simple questions are harder than you think - it just shows you how little we pay attention to the common place things of life

1. On a standard traffic light, is the green on the top or bottom?
2. How many states are there? (Don't laugh, some people don't know)
3. In which hand is the Statue of Liberty's torch?
4. Does a parrot eat with his beak?
5. What two letters don't appear on the telephone dial?
6. What two numbers on the telephone dial don't have letters by them?
7. When you walk does your left arm swing w/your right or left leg?
8. How many matches are in a standard pack?
9. On the United States flag is the top stripe red or white?
10. What is the lowest number on the FM dial?
11. Which way does water go down the drain, counter or clockwise?
12. Which way does a "no smoking" sign's slash run?
13. How many channels on a VHF TV dial?
14. Which side of a women's blouse are the buttons on?
15. On a NY license plate, is New York on the top or bottom?
16. Which way do fans rotate?
17. Whose face is on a dime?
18. How many sides does a stop sign have?
19. Do books have even-numbered pages on the right or left side?
20. How many lug nuts are on a standard car wheel?
21. How many sides are there on a standard pencil?
22. Sleepy, Happy, Sneaky, Grumpy, Doopy, Doc. Who's missing?
23. How many hot dog buns are in a standard package?
24. On which playing card is the card maker's trademark?
25. On which side of a Venetian blind is the cord that adjusts the opening between the slats?
26. On the back of a \$1 bill, what is in the center?
27. There are 12 buttons on a touch tone phone. What two symbols bear no digits?
28. How many curves are there in the standard paper clip?
29. Does a merry-go-round turn counter or clockwise?

*Answers: 1. Bottom; 2. 50; 3. Right; 4. According to the Knowitall prize winner, Gary Hoffman this is true; 5. Q, Z; 6. 1, & 0; 7. Right; 8. 20; 9. Red; 10. 88; 11. Counter (north of the equator); 12. Towards bottom right; 13. 12 (no #1); 14. Left; 15. Top; 16. Clockwise as you look at it; 17. Roosevelt; 18. 8; 19. Left; 20. 5; 21. 6; 22. Bashful; 23. 8; 24. Ace of spades; 25. Left; 26. ONE; 27. *, #; 28. 3; 29. Counter.*

Crossword Puzzle Solution

L	C	D	R	F	D	C	S	A
K	O	A	E	E	A	U	O	P
E	I	N	E	Q	U	E	S	T
T	R	I	N	U	N	I	N	Y
S	A	B	E	A	G	T		
A	R	T	L	E	S	S	H	A
D	I	E	T	T	I	P	M	A
E	A	R	D	B	A	R	I	L
R	A	F	L	A	L	L		
N	P	G	R	U	L	E	D	S
S	A	N	S	K	R	I	T	A
A	L	A	E	O	N	O	R	E
E	R	A	R	E	T	A	S	T

*Most cancer patients don't think about how cancer can affect the health of their bones. However, cancer and its treatments can affect bones in two ways. Firstly, hormone therapies, which are commonly used to treat breast and prostate cancers, may increase the risk of osteoporosis, even in men. Secondly, sometimes cancer can spread or metastasize from its original site to the bone, resulting in weak and unstable bones. Cancer Care has developed an informative program about Caring for Bones. During Cancer to provide cancer patients and their families with accurate information. For more information, you can visit CancerCare.org or call 1-800-813-HOPE.

*If you wear glasses or contacts for nearsightedness or astigmatism but have been hesitant to move forward with laser vision correction, a new procedure called VISX CustomVue(tm) may be just what you have been waiting for. This new procedure has the potential to give you better vision and to improve your vision at night. In a recent clinical study, results showed CustomVue to be a safe and effective method of laser vision correction. One year after the procedure, 98 percent of study participants could see 20/20 or better, with as many as three quarters enjoying better than 20/20 vision.

*If you use a computer a lot at home or work it may now be easier for you to avoid repetitive stress injuries or RSIs. Keyboarding, clicking and maneuvering the mouse can strain and damage muscles and tendons in the fingers, hands, wrist and arms. To avoid repetitive stress injuries, consider using speech-recognition software. Speech recognition software can take the strain off your wrists.

*For the nearly two million people with chronic lower back pain that have failed to respond to non-operative treatments, such as physical therapy, medication and spinal injections, a minimally invasive procedure called the IDET(tm) Procedure may offer hope for those suffering from persistent and often unbearable pain. The IDET Procedure uses controlled heat to modify tissue in the disc wall and is performed on an outpatient basis, taking approximately 40 minutes from start to finish. To learn more and to find a physician in your area who offers the procedure, visit www.idetprocedure.com and use the "Physician Locator" feature.

*A routine dental check-up could help the estimated 40 percent of American adults who suffer from everything from mild snoring to Obstructive Sleep Apnea-the latter of which is a potentially life-threatening condition where a person stops breathing due to complete blockage of the airway. Dentists can now offer their sleeping-disordered patients a patented new oral appliance that keeps air passages open during sleep. Called norad, for Nocturnal Oral Airway Dilator, it consists of a hard acrylic outer tray and an inner, thermoplastic portion that allows for a customized fit and maximum comfort during sleep.

*Many older adults use more than one medication to manage chronic conditions, such as arthritis pain. The use of multiple medications-OTC, herbal, and prescription-can be dangerous if not monitored by a physician, since many herbs are base ingredients for prescription drugs and some may add to the effects of prescription drugs. To help, the MetLife Mature Market Institute has produced a guide called *Medications and the Older Adult*, one is a series of guides called *Since You Care*. For a free copy, write MetLife Mature Market Institute, 57 Greens Farms Road, Westport, CT 06880, call 1-203-221-6580 or visit www.maturemarketinstitute.com.

NAPS

The Lore of Pinball, Yesterday and Today

Even after its first appearance more than 70 years ago, people still flip over pinball. And whether they "play by intuition" or "play by sense of smell," like the pinball wizard immortalized by *The Who* in *Tommy*, the latest generation of fans can enjoy the classic elements of the game either in the arcade or at home.

Then:

*Pinball machines appeared in the early 1930s as countertop machines without legs; the two most popular games were "Bingo" made by the Bingo Novelty Company and "Bally Hoo" made by the Bally Corporation.

*"Bally Hoo" was the first coin-operated pinball game. However, the term "pinball" was not used until 1936.

*The tilt mechanism was one of the first additions to pinball games, invented in 1934 as an answer to the problem of players lifting and shaking the machines.

*The pinball bumper was invented in 1937.

*One of the darkest days in pinball history came on January 21, 1942: Pinball was banned in New York City because it was viewed as a game of luck-making it a form of gambling-instead of a game of skill. Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia smashed a number of machines in front of a largely supportive crowd. The ban lasted until 1976.

*The flipper was invented in 1947 and introduced in a pinball game called "Humpty Dumpty."

*Early pinball machines used separate lights to show the scores. By the late 1950s, a digital scoring system was invented.

Now:

*Pinball has come a long way in the last 20 years or so, particularly in complexity. Today, pinball games are available for PCs, home video game systems and portable hand-held systems, such as Game Boy Advance from Nintendo.

*For example, one new game-Pokémon Pinball: Ruby & Sapphire-offers the Game Boy Advance player a fast-paced game combined with an ever-changing pinball board. Both fun and complex, the game combines fast flipper action with a unique way to catch your favorite Pokémon characters. This game allows players to enjoy the latest version of the game of skill that has captivated players for nearly 80 years.

NAPS

Exactly How Much Life Insurance is Enough?

It's a question financial advisers hear often. How much life insurance do I need? "The question is not as easy as it sounds," says Richard Bell, ChFC, CLU, CFP and president of the Society of Financial Service Professionals. "A lot depends on how many survivors you're protecting, their ages and needs and what other assets you have."

One rule of thumb is to purchase a policy that will pay all of your current debt (especially your mortgage, if any) and replace your annual income for at least five years. That number may increase if you have college-bound children, your surviving spouse has special needs or other circumstances require additional funding.

Sound like too much insurance? Bell suggests you ask yourself: Would I trade all my future paychecks for the face amount of life insurance I now own? "That's the position your family will be in if you die today."

For a free financial planning guide and names of credentialed financial service professionals near you, call the Society, toll free, at 1-888-243-2258, or visit the Web site at www.financialpro.org.

NAPS

Church of the Visitation

Roman Catholic (1907)

95 Years in Visitation Valley

Daily Masses
(Mon-Fri) 7 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Saturday Masses
7:30 a.m. & 5 p.m.

Sunday Masses
8 & 9:30 a.m. (11 a.m. Spanish)
12:30 & 5 p.m.

Our Lady of Visitation School
Grades K-8
239-7840

Religious Education: Grades K-8 (Saturday only) 239-6723

Come, Let us worship together!

655 Sunnydale Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94134-2838
(415) 239-5950

Rev. Zachary J. Shore, Pastor



FREE CERAMICS CLASS

For everyone 18 and older at
Visitation Valley Community Center,
66 Raymond Avenue
Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*Very therapeutic and fun. You do not need to stay the entire day...come for as long as you like.
We have a wonderful teacher to assist you.*

For more information, call Pat at the
VCC Senior Program: (415) 467-4499

VISITACION VALLEY PEDESTRIAN SAFETY SUPPLEMENT

A ROAD MAP FOR A WALKING COMMUNITY !



Special Supplement to the Visitacion Valley Grapevine

We present to you this insert focusing on concerns of pedestrian safety in the Visitacion Valley Neighborhood. Senior Action Network and the Visitacion Valley Pedestrian Safety Collaborative look forward to continued involvement of residents in making the plans on the next page a reality. Concerns and plans in this supplement came from 260 surveys completed by neighbors and from about a dozen local meetings.

Thanks to the Visitacion Valley Grapevine and the Visitacion Valley Community Center for assistance. Opinions in here do not reflect those of any funders or supporters, and can be credited only to Senior Action Network.

Town Hall Meeting Called to Approve a Pedestrian Plan for Vis Valley

We want your input!

Visitacion Valley is a thriving community of many ethnicities and nationalities, but what we all need is safe and walkable streets and sidewalks.

Many organizations have been providing input in the last few years to projects like the Third Street Light Rail and redevelopment on Bayshore or Geneva. But still our problems remain: wide streets built for speeding and lack of City action to calm traffic and protect us.

This supplement provides information and steps for action. More importantly, it starts to map out a draft Pedestrian Safety plan for our emerging

neighborhood.

We celebrate our diversity, and we choose to unite for "Pedestrian Justice" in our community. We deserve the same crosswalk paint, street repairs, hi-tech countdown signals and enforcement that the Marina or Pacific Height might get.

Join the Vis Valley Pedestrian Safety Collaborative and SAN on November 21 to move towards finalizing this draft plan. The meeting will be at 1:30 pm at the Visitacion Valley Community Center, 66 Raymond Street. Other meetings and actions will take place in 2004.

Action Steps

These City Directors could implement the Visitacion Valley Pedestrian Safety Plan:

Elizabeth Goldstein
General Manager
Dept. of Recreation and Parks
831-2701

Michael Burns
Executive Director of MUNI
554-4129

Gerald Norman
Director of Parking & Traffic
554-9833

Ed Lee
Director of Department of
Public Works
554-6920

Frank Markowitz
Director of Pedestrian Safety
Programs, DPT
252-4696

Senior Action Network Calls for Supervisors to Take Action for Pedestrian Safety

At its September Pedestrian Safety Committee meeting, Senior Action Network (SAN) called for communities from throughout San Francisco to create an "omnibus" pedestrian safety ordinance that will map out some of the steps for building a walkable city. After over three years of witnessing typical foot-dragging by various city agencies, SAN members felt it was important to put together a package of legislation that would actually map it out.

"We're tired of getting "No" for an answer from City Hall," said Bill Price, President of SAN. SAN is the city-wide advocacy voice for Seniors, with over 150 organizational members. "We are looking for input from Vis Valley in some kind of Pedestrian Safety Bill of Rights," he added.

The package will be partially based on SAN's Senior and Neighborhood Pedestrian Safety Platform:

- 1) Timed walk signals citywide wherever there is a traffic signal.
- 2) Fluorescent yellow green or white ladder crosswalks wherever there is a child-related or Senior-related institution.
- 3) New "pedestrian scrambles" or "all-walk" signals at all Market Street intersections (Embarcadero to Van Ness) and at other needed intersections. Institute an education component with the new scrambles.
- 4) Require parking control officers to ticket for any and all violations they see, not just the ones to which they are assigned.

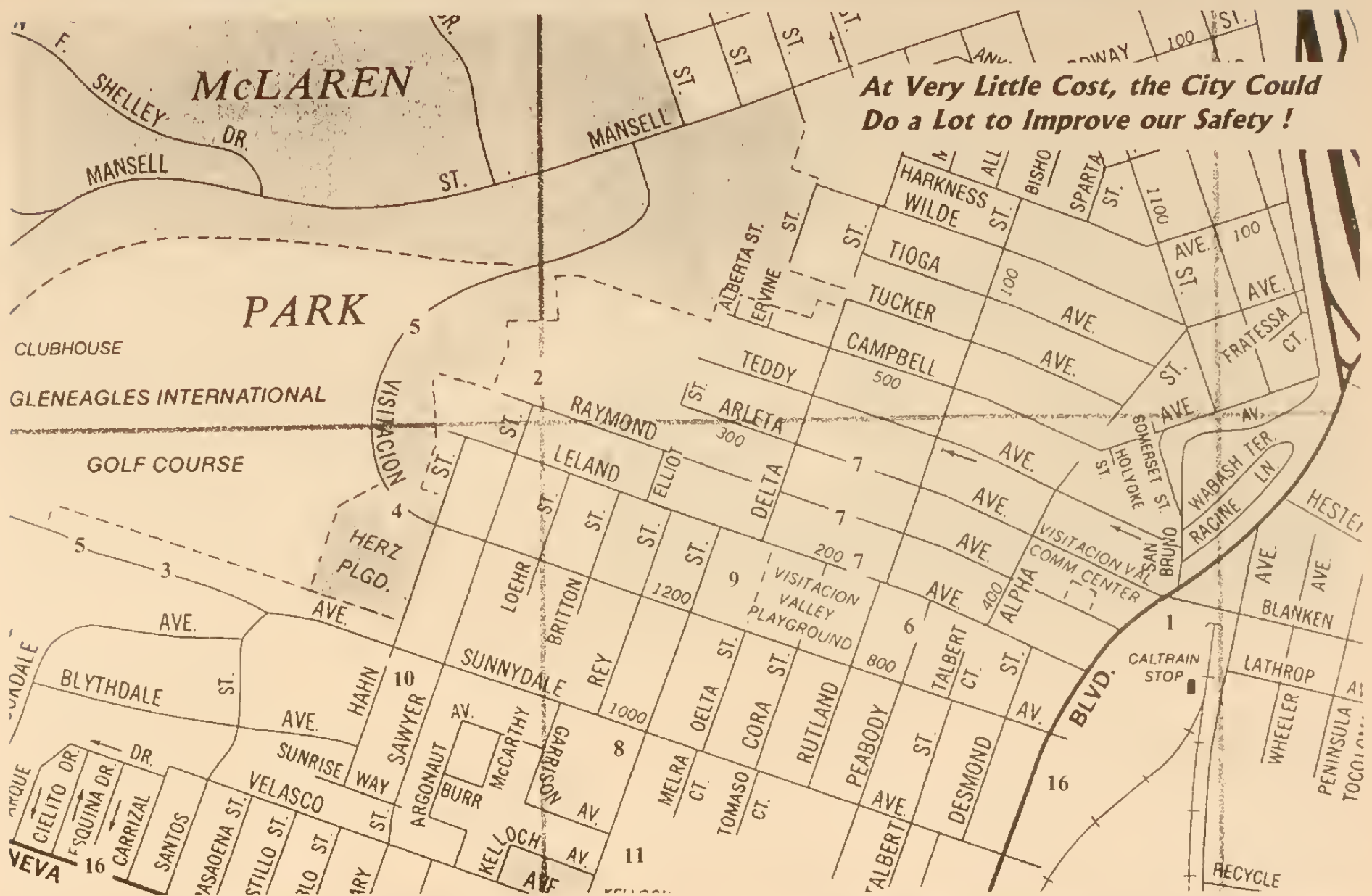
These are a few of the ideas, and others will be added by January, 2004.

With the help of the newly formed Pedestrian Citizen Advisory Commission we hope to make these plans a reality.



A typical crosswalk marking and pothole at Visitacion Valley Middle School. Where are the City departments when you need them?

THE DRAFT VIS VALLEY PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PLAN WE DEMAND CITY INVESTMENT IN OUR SAFETY !!!



Key Intersections

1. Arleta and Bayshore:
 - Reconfigure Seven-Eleven parking lot
 - Enforce speed limits
 - More crossing time at crosswalks
 - Head start for pedestrians on signals
2. Reroute a bus line to Sawyer and Raymond at the John King Senior Community and Center
3. Visitation High (for preschoolers and Seniors)
 - Improve and mark bus stop
 - Install state of the art crosswalk
4. Coffman Pool: Put in sidewalks and safe parking and mark crosswalks at Visitation and Hahn
5. Sunnydale and Visitation Avenues into the Park: Calm traffic through median painting similar to O'Shaughnessy Avenue
6. Leland Avenue at Peabody: Needs stop sign
7. Greenway Project needs crossing treatments across Arleta, Raymond and Leland
8. Sunnydale and Schwerin: Fix the Median Island
9. Visitation Valley Middle School:
 - "Children crossing" and "Yield" signs
 - Clearer crosswalks
10. Hahn and Sunnydale: Stop light, crossing signals, raised intersection
11. Schwerin at Velasco and at Garrison: Stop signs

Entire Neighborhood

12. New crosswalk painted at every corner: in bold yellow or white stripes at gathering places
13. Countdown crossing signals at all traffic lights
14. Police report back to the community quarterly on increased mobile enforcement of speeding
15. Fluorescent "Senior Crossing" signs in front of all institutions which Seniors frequent
16. More time to cross on Bayshore and Geneva
17. Install more curb cuts and standardize heights
18. Plant trees to block sight and slow down traffic
19. Listen to the neighbors when they ask for stop signs or traffic lights

These are just a few of many improvements our taxes should pay for.

We want the same calm, well marked, well-enforced streets that most other neighborhoods of the city already have.

Most of these solutions involve only paint, signs and concrete.

PEDESTRIAN JUSTICE for Visitation Valley!



Heritage Homes,
John King and
Britton Court
residents rallied with
neighbors for a crime
free and walkable
neighborhood.

Kids and Seniors
need safe streets and
sidewalks too.

**Join with the Visitation Valley Pedestrian Safety Collaborative to
take action to calm our streets and protect our walkers.**

Comment on this plan at our

TOWN HALL MEETING

1:30 PM FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21

VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER, 66 RAYMOND ST.

Action Steps

CALL YOUR SUPERVISORS and MAYORAL CANDIDATES: Ask for a comprehensive plan for
Vis Valley street repairs, crosswalks, pedestrian signals, safe bus stops and bus routes for all.

Supervisor Sophie Maxwell: 554-7670 Sophie.Maxwell@sfgov.org

Supervisor Gavin Newsom: 554 5946 Gavin.Newsom@sfgov.org

Board of Supervisor President Matt Gonzalez: 554-7634 Matt.Gonzalez@sfgov.org



VV Residents Took to the Streets and Got Results

One hundred Visitacion Valley residents met on December 1, 2002 at the Community Center – about half of us were Chinese. We marched around the intersection of San Bruno, Bayshore and Arleta, one of the strangest and most dangerous in the City. DPT and the Third Street Light Rail Project promised some significant improvements.

We demanded bright ladder crosswalks, longer crossing times, clear and clean bus stops, and enforcement of crosswalk and speeding violations. City officials promised to mark the crosswalks more clearly, remove barriers on the sidewalks and median strips, and to improve asphalt to sidewalk gaps. Police turned out in force, some in Santa outfits, and promised increased enforcement at the intersection.

A follow-up meeting in

June solidified City commitments to improve the intersection, mostly through the ongoing Third Street Light Rail construction. Thanks to Supervisor Sophie Maxwell for making that meeting happen.

The Bayshore rally was sponsored by the Visitacion Valley Pedestrian Safety Collaborative: Senior Action Network; John King Senior Community; Network for Elders; John King Senior Center; Mercy Housing; Britton Court; Visitacion Valley Community Center; and Heritage Homes.

Some of the improvements are completed but most are still under construction. The biggest improvement will be the reconfiguration of the south on Bayshore to Blanken left turn. Some of the signage on the south on Bayshore to Arleta right turn has also already been made.

To the Tune of Let it Snow

Oh the cars on Bayshore are frightful
And the atmosphere is spiteful.
What we need is more time to cross
So pedestrian lives are not lost.

We need signs, and lights and crosswalks
We need action now — not more talk.
So let us make our plans today
To walk safely every day.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency.

Thanks also to the staff of the Department of Public Health, Community Health Education Section, Ana Validzic, MPH, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Project Coordinator (415) 581-2478 — ana.validzic@sfdph.org



Town Hall Meeting 1:30 pm., Friday November 21 Visitacion Valley Community Center 66 Raymond Street

Join with the Visitacion Valley Pedestrian Safety Collaborative to comment on all the pedestrian safety ideas in this supplement.

We want your input and involvement in making this pedestrian safety plan a reality for the Visitacion Valley neighborhood.

More Action Steps

Handy Numbers

Parking Enforcement Division
(Ticket sidewalk parking or tow blocked driveways, and other reports)
553-1631

Street and Sewer Repair
(Potholes and unsafe streets)
695-2100

Paint the crosswalk
715-4074

Curb repair and curb cuts; unsafe sidewalks
554-5810

Clogged sewers, sewer maintenance, overflows
695-2096

Street Construction (unfinished jobs, etc.)
554-7222

Livable Streets Hotline
554-2398



This pathetic median island at Schwerin and Sunnysdale causes more accidents than it prevents.

Contact us

Pedestrian Valley Pedestrian Safety Collaborative
C/O Senior Action Network
965 Mission Street, Suite 705
San Francisco, CA 94105

Bruce Lee Livingston,
Pedestrian Safety Organizer
Phone: 415-546-1334
Bruce@SeniorActionNetwork.org

Stephen Chan, CRI Coordinator, Mercy Housing
Phone: 387-8978



2177 Bayshore Blvd.
at the corner of Blanken

(415) 330-0736
Fax (415) 330-9813

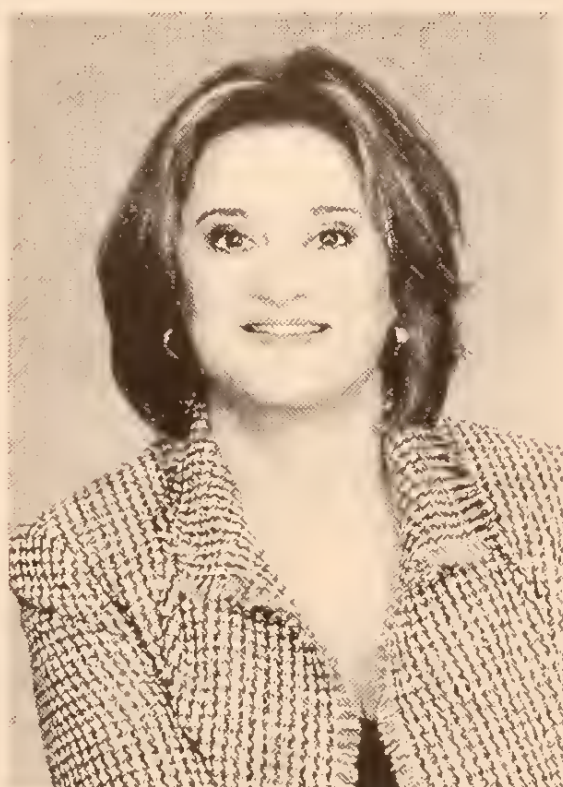
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20 pcs. Shrimp \$31.99

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and 6 pcs. Jumbo Shrimp \$25.99

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- *Seafood
- *Appetizers
- *Party Platters
- *Desserts



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Grapevine Puzzler

Counties of Maryland

A L L O R R A C H E R Y U S A R T Q R P
S R T X Q K K L S U I S H A R T F O R D
A S D F G C V C S G S Y K Z D F G I J K
S R F D R A W O H E N X P R Q U E N S A
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Allegany
Anne-
Arundel
Baltimore
Calvert
Caroline
Carroll
Cecil

Charles
Dorchester
Frederick
Garrett
Hartford
Howard
Kent
Montgomery

Prince George's
Queen Anne's
St. Mary's
Somerset
Talbot
Washington
Wicomico
Worcester

Historic Proportions

Match clues to answers.

1921

1. He was sworn in as 29th U.S. President of the AUnited States on Mar. 4.
 2. New cross-country service was commenced between San Francisco and New York on Feb. 2.
 3. He declared himself *Il Duce* on Nov. 7.
 4. He was appointed British Colonial Secretary on Feb. 12.
 5. On Oct. 31, moviegoers started knowing this actor as *The Sheik*.
 6. This nation invaded Panama on Feb. 26.
 7. They were the World Series winners after playing eight games on Oct. 12.
 8. Isolated extract to help diabetes found on July 27.
 9. Race riot here claimed 85 lives on June 1.
 10. General strikes began here on Jan. 20.
 11. Flooding killed more than 500 people here in June.
 12. First radio sports broadcast for this event on Apr. 11.
 13. He became a Regent in Japan on Nov. 25.
 14. He arrived on Apr. 2 in New York to lecture on theory of relativity.
 15. Red army defeated anti-Soviet rebellion here on Mar. 18.
 16. In January, this silent movie star became known to movie patrons as the original Zorro.
 17. This area was partitioned into two separate territories on Dec. 14.
 18. Gabriele d'Annunzio ceded this port area back to Italy on Dec. 31.
- A. Austria
B. Hirohito
C. Costa Rica
D. New York Giants

E. Winston Churchill
F. Colorado
G. Albert Einstein
H. Boxing
I. Fiume
J. Kronstadt
K. Benito Mussolini
L. Ireland
M. Douglas Fairbanks
N. Tulsa
O. Warren G. Harding
P. Insulin
Q. Rudolph Valentino
R. Airmail

Sez Who?

Match quotes to speakers.

1. "Better three hours too soon than a minute too late"
 2. "Cities, like cats, will reveal themselves at night"
 3. "Beware of the half-truth. You may have gotten hold of the wrong half."
 4. "Dreams are touchstones of our characters"
 5. "As always, victory finds a hundred fathers but defeat is an orphan."
 6. "Good company in a journey makes the way seem the shorter."
 7. "Friendship often ends in love; but love in friendship - never."
 8. "When fate hands us a lemon, let's try to make lemonade."
 9. "A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds."
- A. Seymour Essrog
B. Izaak Walton
C. Dale Carnegie
D. William Shakespeare
E. Francis Bacon
F. Charles Caleb Brown
G. Rupert Brooke
H. Henry David Thoreau
I. Count Galeazzo Ciano

Five Years Ago In the Grapevine

DECEMBER 1998

*A packed house at the Visitacion Valley Community Center gymnasium turned out for Roy Barker "Giving Thanks" '98.
*The girls' softball team at Visitacion Valley Middle School enjoyed a successful season.

Sump, the Grump



Did You Know?

*The Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) says technological development should not be constrained for the sake of protecting copyrights. Consumer electronics are a vital link, allowing the world's citizens access to information, education and entertainment, the CEA explains. Restricting the growth of technology will ultimately deprive the public of equal and fair access to information, according to the Association. To learn more, visit the CEA Web site at www.CE.org.

*The United States Postal Inspection Service has received the 2003 National Missing and Exploited Children's Award, the fifth consecutive year it has earned that distinction. This year's Postal Inspection Service recipient, Inspector Elizabeth Bendel, halted a child pornography operation operating out of Florida, Cuba, and Ecuador. To learn more about the Postal Inspection Service and its mission, visit www.usps.com/postalinspectors.

*The Federal Reserve Board has a brochure to guide consumers through the process of obtaining a home equity line of credit. When Your Home Is On The Line: What You Should Know About Home Equity Lines Of Credit shows homeowners how to get and manage a home equity line of credit, complete with a checklist, glossary and where to go for help. To learn more or order a brochure visit www.federalreserve.gov or write to Publications, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC 20551.

*There's an invisible force that could put you in danger at the fuel pump. It's static electricity, and it could ignite a potentially fatal fire if you're not careful when refueling your vehicle or filling a portable fuel container. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the American Petroleum Institute and other safety and fuel experts, it's a good idea to always place portable fuel containers on the ground and out of contact with the vehicle when refueling-this helps ground the container. Do not fill the container while it is in the trunk or truck bed. Only use portable containers that are approved for the type of fuel you are pouring. Don't smoke when refueling a vehicle or filling a portable fuel container.

*One of the keys to producing healthy plants and dark green, robust grass is soil structure. Gypsum acts as a natural soil conditioner that aids growth by loosening dense and water-impervious soil. This promotes strong, vigorous root systems. United States Gypsum Company recommends that lawn and garden gypsum be applied during spring and fall to take best advantage of seasonal moisture patterns. Sof'N-Soil(r) Lawn and Garden Gypsum-which contains approximately 20 percent calcium and 17 percent sulfur-can be applied like lawn fertilizer. Information about Sof'N-Soil gypsum products is available by visiting www.gypsumsolutions.com or calling (800) 487-4431.

*Proper headlight maintenance is critical to safer driving, especially during the nighttime hours, say experts at Sylvania Automotive Lighting. Most people change their car's oil and rotate tires on a regular basis. Car owners should replace headlights before they burn out and carry a spare or two in the glove compartment to reduce accident risk. For more information on headlight upgrade options,

visit www.sylvania.com.

*Don't let your home become a target while you're off having a good time, say experts at Home Depot. A few simple and affordable projects will help divert burglars. Install deadbolts on every entry door. Deadbolts that are grade 2 or higher offer the best security. Make sure back doors, walkways and entrances to garages and basements are well-lit at night since burglars prefer the cover of darkness. Linking outdoor lighting systems to motion sensors can startle would-be intruders by instantly exposing them to light.

*Algae grow in gutters, ponds and other water-holding fixtures surrounding a home. After a rain (or several days of rain), growing algae turn into spores. As the water drains, existing algae spores dry and can be easily blown into your swimming pool, causing the water to become less than attractive. BioGuard, one of the leading manufacturers of pool and spa products, offers these simple tips to ensure the comfort and enjoyment of your swimming pool throughout the swimming season. For more information on the proper use of pool and spa maintenance products, visit www.bioguard.com or consult your yellow pages.

*It is important to be alert and recognize the danger signs of brake problems. Warning signs include an illuminated brake warning light, brake grabbing, low pedal feel, vibration, hard pedal feel and squealing, say experts at the Car Care Council. As part of the "Be Car Care Aware" education campaign, the Car Care Council is also offering a free service interval schedule to help take the guesswork out of what vehicle systems need to be routinely inspected and when service or repair should be performed. The schedule can be obtained for free at www.carcare.org.

*The abrasive nature of many traditional brake pads against the rotor may cause squealing. Low quality rotors could be the noise culprit, as well. Neither of these situations is ideal, but the resulting noise is more annoying than anything else. Groaning noises also can be caused by low quality or abrasive brake pads. Squealing and groaning can both be minimized by installing premium brake system components. You may want to have your installer use the same type of pad fitted as original equipment or an upgrade pad. Ultra-premium ceramic pads, such as Akebono's ProACT brand, are now available for virtually all domestic, Japanese and European models.

*When you buy a car, your dealer may shop your application to several qualified creditors. You can pay cash or purchase a car with the power of a cash buyer by first securing a loan through a bank, credit union or online auto lender before visiting the dealership. For example, Capital One Auto Finance offers loan applications online. The automated application process takes approximately 15 minutes to complete. Tips are available at www.capitalone.com.

As a Matter of Fact

*Barricades are so called from the French *barrique*, or barrel, of which barricades were made during a Paris insurrection in 1588.

*The square dance is the official state dance of Alabama.

*Ottawa was selected as the Canadian capital by Queen Victoria.

*Hares are not true rabbits. In general, hares are larger and usually have longer ears and legs.

*Cornelius Van de Steeg of Perry, Iowa was a practicing lawyer until the age of 101.

*Though a kangaroo can grow up to six feet tall, their young - called joeys - are just an inch long when born.

*The gentoo penguin can swim at speeds up to 17 miles per hour.

*Delaware's state insect is the ladybug.

*The average American household uses about 110,000 gallons of water a year.

*In India, the colors black, red and yellow all protect against spirits.

*Canned rattlesnake meat was first sold on May 22, 1931 by George Kenneth End, president of the Floridan Products Corporation.

*Homing pigeons carried messages for the ancient Egyptians and Persians more than 3,000 years ago.

*The average garden snail travels at 0.03 miles per hour.

*Some people keep hedgehogs as pets to get rid of insects and other house pests.

*It's believed the first crops were planted about 8000 BC.

*The Biblical omer is a unit of measure just under four liters.

*Mississippi's official state fossil is the prehistoric whale.

*A lion's mane protect him during fights - softening the blows of his enemies.

*A young hare is called a leveret.

*The average shower uses between five and ten gallons of water a minute.

*The horned toad is actually a lizard.

*The Irish water spaniel is sometimes called the clown of the dog family.

*The lantern fish creates its own light as it swims about the dark depths of the ocean.

*The laughing hyena is named for a weird howl, which resembles a hysterical human laugh.

*The ragged fins on the frog fish make it appear to be floating seaweed.

*A young partridge is called a cheeper.

*About 56,000 Americans are over 100 years old.

*The name of the dog on the Cracker Jack box is Bingo.

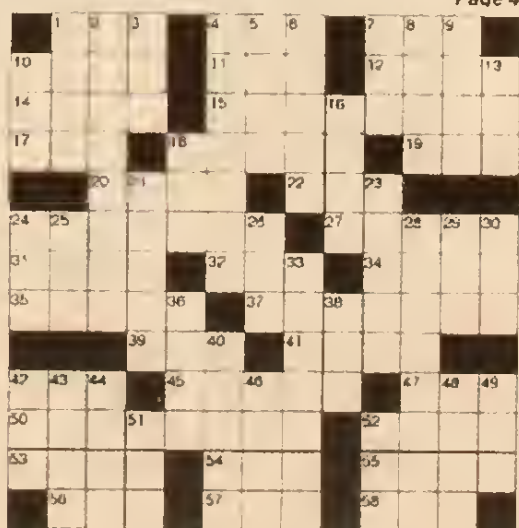
*Jimmy Carter was the first president to walk the inaugural parade route from the Capitol building to the White House.

*Human beings normally have 26 chromosomes; a goldfish, on the other hand, has 94.

Crossword Puzzle

Solution on Page 4

ACROSS
1. Liquid crystal display (abbr.)
4. Rural tree delivery (abbr.)
7. Confederate States of America (abbr.)
10. Red-tailed Hawaiian bird
11. Water (Fr.)
12. Snake (pref.)
14. A (Ger.)
15. Ask
17. Three (pref.)
18. Blobbex
19. Big apple (abbr.)
20. Komo
22. Agent (abbr.)
24. Ingenuous
27. Slave of Sarah
31. Fare
32. End
34. Servant
35. Auricular
37. Saltwort
39. Royal Air Force (abbr.)
41. New sugarcane shoot
42. Negative population growth (abbr.)
45. Marked with lines
47. Health resort
50. Indic language
52. Husband of Jezebel
53. Wings
54. Or nearest offer (abbr.)
55. Cleave
56. Ago
57. Soak flux
58. Atlantic standard time (abbr.)



DOWN
1. Large Eur dormouse
2. Tea box
3. River into the North Sea
4. Solicit
5. Field deity
6. Chaperon (Sp.)
7. Bed
8. Whirl
9. Nautical cry
10. Ketone (pref.)
13. Incorporated (abbr.)
16. Audible breath

18. Compass direction
21. Amend
23. Dravidian language
24. "Fables in Slang" author
25. Inlet
26. Family relative
28. Overshoes
29. Trouble
30. Recommended daily allowance (abbr.)
33. Overcoat

36. Gloomy
38. Energy unit
40. Public excitement
42. Nat'l Security Agency (abbr.)
43. Pallid
44. Growl
46. Cord
48. Beat rapidly
49. Abdominal (abbr.)
51. Expanse
52. Altar constellation

Saturdays are Special at the Randall Museum

The Randall Museum offers drop-in, hands-on art and science workshops every Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. at 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt, above the Castro). All ages are welcome; under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. Museum admission is free with \$3 per person

workshop fee. Call 554-9600 for further information.

*Dec. 6: Drop in and make a wooden yo-yo.

*Dec. 13: Make a shaker-style toy top.

*Dec. 20: Create your own wood scrap sculpture to take home.

*Dec. 27: Learn about and build a simple wooden sundial.

Other regular Saturday activities include:

*Morning Family Ceramics from 10 to 11:30 a.m. (\$5 per workshop fee)

*Meet the Animals from 11:15 a.m. to 12 noon.

*Animal Feeding at 12 noon.

*Golden Gate Model Railroad Club Exhibit from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Visitation Valley Police Log

- *Oct. 6: 11 a.m., 1900 block of Sunnydale Ave., burglary, hot prowl, unlawful entry
- *Oct. 6: 7 p.m., 2500 block of Bayshore Blvd., burglary, attempted forcible entry
- *Oct. 8: 3:38 a.m., 100 block of Arleta Ave., burglary, residence under construction, forcible entry
- *Oct. 8: 6:15 a.m., 1700 block of Geneva Ave., robbery on street, strongarm
- *Oct. 13: 6:30 p.m., 100 block of Desmond St., aggravated assault with knife
- *Oct. 14: 5:30 a.m., 200 block of Brookdale Ave., grand theft from locked auto
- *Oct. 15: 7 p.m., 100 block of Hahn St., grand theft from building
- *Oct. 17: 1:30 p.m., 000 block of Brookdale Ave., burglary of apartment house, unlawful entry
- *Oct. 18: 10 p.m., Geneva Ave. & Santos St., attempted robbery on street with deadly weapon
- *Oct. 20: 1 a.m., 100 block of Brookdale Ave., burglary of residence, forcible entry
- *Oct. 22: 2 p.m., 1400 block of Sunnydale Ave., robbery, bodily force
- *Oct. 27: 2 p.m., 900 block of Visitation Ave., robbery, bodily force
- *Oct. 28: 10:45 p.m., 300 block of Sunnydale Ave., aggravated assault with deadly weapon

America's Real China Trade Problem

by Alan Tonelson

Will China let its currency, the yuan, rise in value? As Chinese exports take market share and jobs from domestic U.S. industries, that's the hope of everyone concerned with the future of the U.S. economy and its manufacturing base, from President Bush to the labor unions to the biggest manufacturing lobbies in Washington. Yet everything we know about China makes clear that currency issues are only a symptom of America's China trade problem, not the root cause.

Main Street USA feels China's growing economic role in the form of some falling consumer prices, but also hundreds of shuttered factories, hundreds of thousands of lost jobs, and lower wages. Even many U.S. multinational companies that have sent boatloads of jobs to China warn that Chinese currency manipulation threatens their remaining U.S. operations.

Along with smaller domestic companies, they note that the Chinese are keeping their goods artificially cheap in markets everywhere, and thus outselling goods from countries like the United States that let free market forces set

New Nasal Mist Vaccine to Help Prevent the Flu

Millions of healthy Americans will soon have the opportunity to be vaccinated against influenza without having to receive an injection.

FluMist(tm) (Influenza Virus Vaccine Live, Intranasal), the first intranasal influenza vaccine licensed in the United States for healthy people, is now available in doctors' offices nationwide and in pharmacies in many states for use this flu season. Approved for the prevention of influenza in healthy children and adolescents, 5 to 17 years of age, and healthy adults, 18 to 49 years of age, FluMist(tm) offers flu protection via a fine mist delivered in the nose.

Each year in the U.S., about 17 million to 50 million people, many of whom are otherwise healthy children and adults, are infected with the influenza virus.

"FluMist(tm) is the first needle-free option in the U.S. for immunizing healthy children and adults against influenza," said Robert B. Belshe, M.D., Professor of Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Molecular Microbiology and Immunology at Saint Louis University, and the lead investigator of key FluMist(tm) clinical trials.

Because the influenza virus is airborne, it is easily transmitted, placing nearly everyone at risk of exposure. This is why areas where people gather, such as schools, homes, and offices, are likely locations for catching the flu. The most effective way to prevent influenza is by

vaccination. With the availability of FluMist(tm), healthy people from 5 to 49 years of age can get vaccinated now.

FluMist(tm) is manufactured and marketed by MedImmune Vaccines, Inc. For more information about FluMist(tm) and where it is available, visit www.FluMist.com or call 1-877-FluMist.

FluMist(tm) is indicated for active immunization for the prevention of disease caused by influenza A and B viruses in healthy children and adolescents, 5 to 17 years of age, and healthy adults, 18 to 49 years of age.

In placebo-controlled clinical trials, the most common solicited adverse events in healthy children (n=214) included runny nose/nasal congestion, cough, irritability, headache, decreased activity, sore throat, fever (oral temperature >100 F), muscle aches, chills, and vomiting. The most common adverse events in healthy adults (n=2,548) included runny nose, headache, sore throat, tiredness/weakness, muscle aches, cough, and chills.

FluMist(tm) does not protect 100 percent of individuals vaccinated, or protect against viral strains not represented in the vaccine. FluMist(tm) is not indicated for immunization of individuals less than 5 years of age, or 50 years of age and older. FluMist(tm) is contraindicated in persons with hypersensitivity to any component of the vaccine, including eggs; in children and adolescents receiving aspirin therapy or aspirin-containing therapy; in individuals with a history of Guillain-Barre syndrome; and in individuals with known or suspected immune deficiency.

The safety and efficacy of FluMist(tm) have not been established in pregnant women or for patients with chronic underlying medical conditions, including asthma or reactive airways disease. *NAPS*

Recipe Corner

Super Good Chili

1 tablespoon vegetable oil, 1-½ pounds ground chuck, 1 large onion, chopped, 2 garlic cloves, minced; 1 tablespoon ground cumin, 1 12-ounce can diced tomatoes, 2 16-ounce cans pinto beans, drained and rinsed, 1 16-ounce can red kidney beans, drained and rinsed, 1 12-ounce can or bottle beer, 1 4-ounce can diced green chilies, 1 tablespoon Tabasco brand pepper sauce, 1-½ teaspoons salt; Shredded cheddar and Monterey Jack cheese, optional.

Heat oil in 5-quart Dutch oven or sauce pot over medium heat. Add beef and cook until well browned on all sides. Remove with slotted spoon and put in bowl.

Add onion and garlic to drippings remaining in skillet; cook over medium heat until tender, about 5 minutes. Return meat to Dutch oven; stir in cumin, cook 1 minute.

Stir in diced tomatoes with their liquid, pinto beans, red kidney beans, beer, green chilies, Tabasco® sauce and salt. Heat to boiling over high heat. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer 20 minutes to blend flavors, stirring occasionally. Serve with cheese, if desired. Makes 6 servings. *NAPS*

From the DA's Office

Suit Filed to Stop Deceptive Advertising Concerning Breast Cancer Screening

San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan and the Medical Board of California announced Oct. 23 that they have jointly filed a civil suit against Craig Bittner, M.D., founder and medical director of HealthScan America, Inc., an Arizona corporation doing business in California under the name of AmenScan. Both agencies have filed the action under Business and Professions Code section 651, a state law that prohibits the dissemination of false, misleading or deceptive advertising by California physicians. The District Attorney also has separately charged Bittner as well as the corporation with false advertising and unlawful business practices under Business and Professions Code sections 17500 and 17200.

The suit, filed in San Francisco Superior Court, seeks to halt alleged false and deceptive advertising used in the promotion of AmenScan's MRI BreastScreen, a test marketed as an alternative to mammography for the detection of breast cancer. Defendants are alleged to have falsely touted, among other things, that "the MRI BreastScreen is the absolute most accurate technology available for the early detection of breast cancer;" that it is "proven to find nearly 100% of all breast cancers;" and that "its success has been repeatedly documented throughout international medical literature." Defendants are also alleged to have made false and misleading statements in comparing the MRI BreastScreen to mammography, including claims that "mammograms miss two out of three breast cancers," and that the MRI BreastScreen "is proven to be three times better at detecting early breast cancer than regular x-ray mammography."

The suit alleges that these and other statements used in AmenScan's advertising are false and deceptive, and that the scientific claims being made by defendants cannot be substantiated by reliable, peer-reviewed, published scientific studies as required by law. The suit also alleges that the defendants' advertisements include false or misleading endorsements in violation of state and federal law.

"This case was filed to stop the campaign of deceptive advertising employed by defendants to scare women away from mammography in order to sell them a \$2,000 MRI BreastScreen," District Attorney Hallinan said. "To actively discourage women from getting a mammogram by publicizing false and misleading information about its effectiveness compared to MRI is not only unlawful and irresponsible, it's dangerous."

Ron Joseph, Executive Director of the Medical Board, stated that "According to leading experts in breast

imaging research, though MRI may be a useful tool when used in conjunction with mammography, no published, scientific data support defendants' claim that MRI is a proven alternative to mammography for breast cancer screening in the general population. Women are encouraged to consult their doctors before making any decisions based on these deceptive ads."

The suit seeks an injunction prohibiting defendants from making these and other illegal claims about the efficacy of the MRI BreastScreen without having a reliable scientific basis for such claims, and civil penalties in the amount of up to \$2,500 for each deceptive advertisement and for each unlawful business practice.

Organic Gardening Classes in December

**Compost and Mulch for your Soil* – Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Come to this workshop on the benefits of compost and mulch in your garden. Learn how to make compost and mulch and about their abilities to conserve water and minimize weeds. Garden for the Environment, 7th Ave. at Lawton St. Free! Pre-registration required! This workshop is part of our Resource Efficient Gardening and Landscaping Program. Call HANC's Gardening and Composting Program at (415) 731-5627 for a full list of classes or to pre-register.

**Holiday Gifts from the Garden* – Saturday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m.-12 noon. Learn how to make low-cost holiday gifts from materials gathered in the garden. Projects will include wreaths, works on paper, and herbal body care products. All materials will be provided for you to make beautiful gifts to take home. Garden for the Environment, 7th Ave. at Lawton St. \$15. Pre-registration required! Call HANC's Gardening and Composting Program at (415) 731-5627 to pre-register or for more information.

Grapevine Want Ads

VOLUNTEERS WANTED for WVCC After School Program to tutor children ages 5-14 at one of our 11 sites in the Visitation Valley area. Interested persons contact Dee Smith, WVCC After School coordinator, (415) 585-2059.

A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY. The John McLaren Child Development Center seeks in-kind donations for our newly-created lending library: children's books and magazines, small children's furniture, writing and/or art supplies, educational/cultural games or posters. Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity! Please send all donations to: John McLaren Child Development Center, 2055 Sunnydale Ave., San Francisco, CA 94134. Call 469-4519 if you would like for us to pick-up any materials.

GRAPEVINE DISPLAY ADVERTISING now half off regular rates for a limited time. Full Page, \$75; 1/2 Page \$40; 1/4 Page \$22.50; 1/8 Page \$12.50; 1/12 Page \$7.50. Discount for three or more insertions. Call (415) 467-9300 for more details. **Want Ads:** 20 words for \$1. Extra line 50 cents. Ad and payment should be received by 15th of prior month at Visitation Valley Grapevine, 50 Raymond Ave., San Francisco, CA 94134.

San Francisco City Services and Monthly Meetings

- Abandoned Cars 553-9817
 - Bus Shelter Damage 882-4949
 - Curb Painting 554-2336
 - DPW Illegal Dumping 28-CLEAN
 - Graffiti Hotline 241-9274
 - Muni Information 673-6864
 - Parking and Traffic Problems (DPT) 553-1200
 - Pothole Repair 695-2100
 - S.F. Police Inglewood Station 404-4000
 - S.F. Police (non-emergency) 553-0123
 - Street Lighting 554-0730
 - Sunnydale Resource Center 586-7572
 - VVMS Anonymous Hotline 281-8406
 - Tree Problems 695-2162
- Aging 1st Wed 9:30a, Airport 1st/3rd Tu 3p, Arts 1st Mon 3p, Education 2nd/4th Tu 7p, Health 1st/3rd Tu 3p, Housing Auth 2nd/4th Th 4p, Human Rights 1st/3rd Th 4 30p, Library 1st Tu 5 30p, Planning Th 1 30p, Police Wed 5 30p, Port 1st Tu/3rd Wed 4 30p, Public Utilities 2nd/4th Tu 2p, Rec & Park 3rd Th 2p, Social Services 4th Th 9a, Status Women 4th Th 4p, Supervisors Mon 2p

Visitation Valley Community Center

Mondays: Senior Shopping 11:30 a.m., Tuesdays Senior Ceramics 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Senior Bingo 12:30 p.m., **Thursdays:** Sewing Class 9 a.m.-3 p.m. **VVCC Regular Board Meeting** is held on the 4th Thursday of each month at 5 p.m.

Visitation Valley Business Directory

Valley business and organization free listings in the 415 area code. Call the Grapevine at (415) 467-9300.

AUTOMOTIVE BAYSHORE AUTO, 2260 Bayshore Blvd., 467-6130 BAYSHORE SERVICE, 2596 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5239 CHARLIE'S GARAGE, 2550 Bayshore Blvd., 239-7450 T.W. AUTOMOTIVE (mechanic), 2500 Bayshore Blvd., 585-8281 VALLEY AUTO & TRUCK SUPPLY (Bill Conley), 2520 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5880 BANK BANK OF AMERICA, 6 Leland Ave., 622-4501 BAKERS CUNEO BAKERY, 96 Leland Ave., 239-6090 LITTLE QUIAPO BAKE SHOP, 169 Leland Ave., 239-2253 BARBERS DeMASI'S BARBER SHOP, 35 Leland Ave. THE SHOP (Jib), 178 Leland Ave., 239-6709 BEAUTICIANS ANGEL COIFFURES, 5 Leland Ave., 239-9891 BODY, SOUL & SPIRIT, 222 Leland Ave., 333-7261 MAYMAY BEAUTY SALON, 60 Leland Ave., 337-9381 MIZ RENAISSANCE SALON, 19 Blanken Ave., 467-3399 NAILS BY JENNY, 50 Leland Ave., 333-6800 WHO'S BAD?, 224 Leland Ave., 657-3156 BLIND CLEANING SPEEDY ULTRASONIC BLIND CLEANING (commercial and residential), 1116 Grand St., 467-7506 BOARDING HOUSE ABLE'S CASA, 850 Rutland St., 333-4664, fax 333-4693 BOOKKEEPERS AMY ARAGON, PROFESSIONAL BOOKKEEPER, 467-8927 VERNA WALLACE EA, 2320 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5333 CARPETS HANSAN INTERIORS, 41 Leland Ave., 333-6382 CASKETS CASKETORIUM INC, 93 Leland Ave., 585-3451 CHURCHES CHURCH OF THE VISITATION, 655 Sunnydale Ave., 239-5950 IGLESIA EL ESPIRITU SANTO, 38 Leland Ave. KOREAN FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 333 Tunnel Ave., 468-1213 RIDGE VIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 590 Leland Ave., 239-5457 ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 240 Leland Ave., 586-6381 VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH, 305 Raymond Ave., 467-6055 VISITACION CHINESE BAPTIST CHURCH, 8 Desmond St., 333-4503 COFFEE HAPPY DONUT, 2600 Bayshore Blvd., 469-5309 PICCOLO PETE'S EUROPEAN COFFEE, 2155 Bayshore Blvd., 467-2442 DAY CARE CAROUSEL DAY CARE, 261 Hahn St., 469-5353 DENTIST VISITACION VALLEY DENTAL OFFICE (Albert Kuan, DDS), 37 Leland Ave., 239-5500 DEVELOPERS GENEVA VALLEY DEVELOPMENT CORP, 333 Schwern St., 587-7895 ELECTRICAL TATE ELECTRIC (Jodi Tate), 467-4657 FLORISTS IL FIORE FLOWERS, 2466 San Bruno Ave., 468-0145 GARDEN ORNAMENTS SILVESTRI GARDEN ORNAMENTS, 2635 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5990 GROCERS E-Z STOP MARKET, 2203 Geneva Ave., 585-9240 FIVE MILE MARKET, 3574 San Bruno Ave., 467-7300 K.C. MARKET, 400 Wide St., 467-3024 LITTLE VILLAGE MARKET, 1450 Sunnydale Ave., 586-1815 M & M SHORTSTOP, 2145 Geneva Ave., 585-0878 PICCOLO PETE, 2155 Bayshore Blvd., 468-6800 SARI-SARI FOOD STORE, 58 Leland Ave., 239-0580 7-11, 2200 Bayshore Blvd., 468-8646 SHUN LEE MARKET, 2400 Bayshore Blvd., 586-4851 SMITTY'S MARKET, 2610 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5506 SUPER FAIR MARKET, 201 Leland Ave., 239-6856 TEDDY'S MARKET, 298 Teddy Ave. VALLEY SUPER MARKET, 65 Leland Ave., 239-7520 HERBS SAN ON HERBS, 33-A Leland Ave., 333-7469 HYPNOTHERAPY VALERIE HABEGGER-HYPNOTHERAPY, 371 Teddy Ave., 468-5631 INSURANCE ROBERT LEHMAN, CLTC, CMFC, 333-0850 AUJCEL WONG, 150A Leland Ave., 337-8811 KITCHEN CABINETS LEE CHANG INTERNATIONAL, INC., 25 Leland Ave., 333-2730, fax 333-1706 LAUNDRY/CLEANERS BAY WASH, 44 Leland Ave. CITY WASH INTERNATIONAL, 83 Leland Ave., 333-9467 COIN WASH & DRY LAUNDRY, 186 Leland Ave. FORTY-NINER CLEANERS, 51 Leland Ave., 239-6418 LELAND AVENUE CLEANERS, 151 Leland Ave., 586-1412 VALLEY LAUNDRY, 90 Leland Ave. VISITACION VALLEY LAUNDRY, 108 Leland Ave., 239-9030 LEARNING 3-A-1 LEARNING ACADEMY, 240 Leland Ave., 584-8555 VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY BEACON CENTER, 450 Raymond Ave., 452-4907 VISITACION VALLEY FAMILY SCHOOL, 325 Leland Ave., 585-9320 LIBRARY VISITACION VALLEY BRANCH, 45 Leland Ave., 239-5270 LODGING THRIFT LODGE, 2011 Bayshore Blvd., 467-8811 MANUFACTURER NATIONWIDE PAPER, 345 Schwern St., 586-9160 MEDICAL AMERICAN RED CROSS, BAY AREA CHAPTER, 1704 Sunnydale Ave., 584-3620 HAWKINS VILLAGE MEDICAL CLINIC (Dept. of Public Health), 333 Schwern St., Appointments: 715-0310 DR. SAM HO, MD, 9 Sillman St. No. 4, 337-6135 NORTHEAST MEDICAL SERVICES, LELAND AVENUE, 82 Leland Ave., 391-9686 (ask for Leland Avenue clinic) PORTOLA FOOT & ANKLE CLINIC (Dr. Dwyang Patel), 2858 San Bruno Ave., 467-7500 NOTARY ROYAL PACIFIC MORTGAGE & REALTY, 46 Leland Ave., 333-4900 ORGANIZATIONS ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER, 2442 Bayshore Blvd., 587-2689 GENEVATERACE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, 60 Burr Ave., 584-2700 GIRLS AFTER SCHOOL ACADEMY, 2050 Sunnydale Ave., 333 Schwern St., 584-4044 JOHN KING SENIOR COMMUNITY, 500 Raymond Ave., 239-6233 LELAND HOUSE, 141 Leland Ave., 405-2000 ROCK (Real Options for City Kids), 590 Leland Ave., 333-4001 VISITACION VALLEY SENIOR CENTER, 66 Raymond Ave., 467-4499 PHARMACY VISITACION VALLEY PHARMACY, 100 Leland Ave., 239-5811 PHOTOGRAPHER WALTER CORBIN PHOTOGRAPHY (freelance), 435 Sawyer St., 587-9471, fax 337-8620 PLUMBING MARK VOELKER PLUMBING, 99 Arleta Ave., 467-7401 POST OFFICE VISITACION USPO, 68 Leland Ave., (800) 275-8777 REAL ESTATE Cathy Kline Saunders, (Zephyr Real Estate), 215 West Portal Ave., 731-5011 ext. 163 RESTAURANTS CLIFF'S BAR-B-Q & SEAFOOD, 2177 Bayshore Blvd., 330-0736, Fax 330-9813 4 EVERYDAY PEOPLE, 107 Leland Ave., 308-5673 G & L BAKERY & RESTAURANT, 198 Leland Ave., 239-6283 SUN FAIR RESTAURANT, 30 Leland Ave., 587-2763 LUAN FAT BAKERY, 110 Leland Ave., 585-1167 RUSSIA HOUSE, 2011 Bayshore Blvd., 467-0252 SHIREL'S SOUL FOOD, 107 Leland Ave., 239-5141 TWO JACKS RESTAURANT, 167 Leland Ave., 337-0433 Y & G RESTAURANT, 73 Leland Ave., 469-5686 SELF-DEVELOPMENT DYNAMIC DEVELOPMENTS (Margorie Ann Williams, CEO, Career and Self-Enhancements Specialist), 467-7608 SERVICE PROVIDERS THE VILLAGE, 333 Schwern St., 239-5045 VISITACION VALLEY BILINGUAL EDUCATION SUPPORTIVE SERVICES & TRAINING (VWESS), 120 Leland Ave., 586-7347 VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER (VVCC), 50 Raymond Ave., 467-6400 VVCC FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER, 161 Leland Ave., 586-6998, Fax 586-8027 VISITACION VALLEY JOBS EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VJJET), 333 Schwern St., 239-2866 SIGNS SMITH'S SIGNS, 153 Leland Ave., 333-2700 TAVERN THE CLUB HOUSE, 25 Blanken Ave. TELEPHONE D & A WIRELESS, 78 Leland Ave., 452-4139 VIDEO SIN FUNG VIDEO, 144 Leland Ave., 586-1038

Many Refund and Credit Checks Returned to IRS

From Page 1

"Our Web site makes it easy for taxpayers to track undelivered checks," Everson said. "Our goal is to get this money back in the hands of the people it belongs to, and we want to get the checks out as soon as possible."

IRS.gov, the IRS Web site, lets taxpayers track both their refund and their advance child tax credit. "Where's My Refund?" provides information about refunds and "Where's My Advance Child Tax Credit?" provides information about the tax credit. Both are available on the IRS home page.

To use the resources on IRS.gov, taxpayers enter information including their Social Security number and their filing status (such as single or married filing jointly). In addition, the refund amount shown on their 2002 tax return is required for refunds. To get information on the advance child tax credit, taxpayers must also enter the number of exemptions shown on their 2002 tax return.

When the information is submitted online, taxpayers see Web pages that show the status of their refund or advance child tax credit check. In many cases, they also get instructions they need to resolve problems.

"All we need is a good address," Everson said. "As soon as we get the correct address we can start the check on its way. We urge taxpayers to act before Dec. 5 for the advance payments so we can reissue the checks before the end of the year."

Taxpayers without access to the Internet who think they may be missing a refund or advance child tax credit check should first check their records or contact their tax preparer before calling the IRS toll-free assistance line at 1-800-829-1040.

Valley Man Shot and Killed on Rey Street

A Visitation Valley man was shot and killed Nov. 13 as he walked in front of a residence on Rey Street.

Carl Douglas Jr., 32, who had been released from prison two weeks earlier, was gunned down and died just before 7:30 p.m. by an unknown assailant who quickly fled the scene.

to update their address.

Taxpayers can avoid undelivered refund checks by having their refunds deposited directly into a personal checking or savings account. Direct deposit also guards against theft or lost refund checks. The option is available on both paper returns and electronically filed returns. More than 44 million taxpayers chose direct deposit this filing season, up 11.6 percent from last year. Direct deposit was not available for the advance child tax credit checks.

Refund checks go astray for reasons that can vary with each taxpayer. Often, it's because a life change causes an address change. If taxpayers move or change their address and fail to notify the IRS or the U.S. Postal Service, a check sent to their last known address is returned to the IRS. The Postal Service says more than 40 million Americans change addresses annually.

Taxpayers who have moved since filing their last tax return can ensure the IRS has their correct address by filing Form 8822, Change of Address, with the IRS. Download the form or request it by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

Runoff Election to Decide New Mayor, District Attorney

For the third time in a little more than two months, local voters will again be going to the polls — this time to vote in a municipal run-off election Dec. 9 to determine who will take office as San Francisco mayor and district attorney.

Running for mayor are Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez and District 2 Supervisor Gavin Newsom, while Kamala Harris challenges incumbent District Attorney Terence Hallinan.

Of the 11,527 registered voters in Visitation Valley for the Consolidated Municipal Election on Nov. 4, only 3,891 actually cast a ballot for an average of 33.76 percent. More Valley residents participated in the Statewide Special Election on Oct. 7, with 5,219 of 11,428 registered voters for a 45.67 percent turnout.

ANITA GOLD

Greetings From Earlier Thanksgivings

Q. I found some old Thanksgiving Day postcards in a cigar box among family possessions stored in the attic. Can you tell me anything about them?

Ruth Lee Anderson, Green Bay, WI

A. Back around the turn of the century, Thanksgiving Day postcards were just as traditional as turkey, trimmings, and pumpkin pie, and were sent as holiday greetings to relatives and friends. Such cards portrayed chubby-cheeked children, pilgrims and puritans, as well as patriotic motifs, gobbling turkeys with feathers and flare, and patches of pumpkins and holiday fare. Many were made as sets and series containing a number of cards, which can be recognized by tiny numbers printed on the front or back, usually in a lower corner. Some collect only sets, while others collect a conglomeration of all types because there is a great variety for deltiologists (postcard collectors) to find.

Thanksgiving Day postcards were probably more family-oriented than some other holiday types (with the exception of Christmas) since they represented that time of the year when families gathered from far and near to meet, eat and groan from gobbling too fast and devouring too much.

Thanksgiving Day postcards ranged from fancy to funny types which often had copyright dates printed on them, such as one dated 1912 produced by J. Bergman of New York which pictures a huge turkey chasing a little Dutch boy, who is saying, "I hope dot you vill haf all de goot t'ings for Thanksgiving." Children were often favorite subjects, and many examples show the tots feeding and befriending turkeys, as well as riding on their backs such as one published by International Art, which shows a little boy in a sailor suit riding a gobbler and holding on to a ribbon tied around the bird's neck, which says "May you always

ride on the wings of prosperity and plenty."

Turkeys alone also were favorite subjects — many show one or more with vivid plumage. One dated 1907, pictures two gobblers whose tail feathers are spinners that one could spin and change the bird's color and size. Still another turkey-theme example postmarked 1910, shows a gobbler feasting on an ear of corn and beside it a poem by John Greenleaf Whittier that says, "Thank God for rest/ Where none molest, / And one can make afraid, For Peace that sits as Plenty's guest, Beneath the homestead's shade."

Thanksgiving Day postcards were mass-produced by numerous publishers including John Winsch, Raphael Tuck, Juliou Bien, M.W. Taggart, P. Sander, etc. By using a magnifying glass, you can find such names or publishers' trademarks along with those of various artists, printed in tiny letters on some of the cards, but not all, as some were not "signed." The value of Thanksgiving Day postcards, depends upon their condition and rarity.

Of special interest are Thanksgiving Day-menu postcards that feature such fare as "Health a la Wealth, Prosperity Garnished with Joys, True Love, Happiness, and Long Life." A terrific book which includes Thanksgiving Day postcards pictured in color with their descriptions and values, is "Vintage Postcards for the Holidays - Identification & Value Guide" by Robert & Claudette Reed, available in a large 296-page full color edition, for \$27.95 postpaid from Collector Books, P.O. Box 3009, Paducah, KY 42002-3009. Or phone (1-800-626-5420) toll free to order.

Q. Sometime back in a previous column (I thought I had saved but can't find) you had an item about a polish that cleans embedded dirt from heavily embossed fancy silverware, brass planters, and other hard-to-clean embossed metal items. Can you please repeat that information? Marge Phillips, Columbia, SC

A. To clean and polish such embossed pieces to perfection, the first thing to do is to test the pieces to see if they were lacquered or painted,

by saturating a cloth or piece of cotton with acetone or paint remover, and rubbing it on the pieces which will remove lacquer or any such painted surface which (if left on) will inhibit brass, silver, aluminum, gold, or any other metals meant to shine, from being polished. To clean and unclog any fancy embossments, curliques, or raised or incised embellishments on any flatware or hollowware, the best and most amazing "miracle" polish that'll produced a spectacular shine, is MAAS Metal Polish available in a large bottle for \$ 9.95 plus \$2.95 shipping, which includes a free polishing cloth dry-treated with the MAAS formula you'll love, from MAAS Polishing Systemes, Dept. D, P.O. Box 128, La Grange, IL 60525-0128. To glitzy up your table for the coming holidays, follow these four easy steps:

1. Put the pieces in a drain-closed sink or suitable tin, aluminum or enamel pan.

2. Pour enough boiling water over the pieces to completely cover them,

letting them soak to soften the residue and replacing the boiling water if need be.

3. After soaking, take a piece out (which needn't be dried) and rub MAAS on the piece and into the embossments.

4. Take a soft toothbrush covered with a T-shirt material (into which MAAS has been rubbed to produce a jeweler's cloth), and simply brush and polish the embossments clean that'll shock the heck out of you by leaving the pieces looking gorgeous, grand and brand new. For larger pieces other than flatware (like coffee or teapots), place wet towels or cloths soaked in hot boiling water, over, on, or against the pieces to loosen the muck or goop in the embossments, and follow the above 4-step directions. Incidentally, never throw out old, soft toothbrushes for they can serve a multitude of cleaning services especially for getting into hard-to-reach places to remove nasty deposits.

Write Anita Gold, P.O. Box 597401, Chicago, IL 60659. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with a copy of this column and the name of the paper in which it appears for a reply.

Family/Community Services Center

Visitation Valley Community Center, Inc.



Parent Support Group
10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Fourth Saturday of Each Month

Fathers' Support Group
11:30 a.m. to 12 noon
Third Friday of Each Month
at 161 Leland Avenue

For more information on workshops and activities, please contact the following staff members at (415) 586-6998:
Meriam T. Abalos, FCSC Coordinator
Marianna Y. Chan
Aisha Cunningham
Stan Zuni

Open:

Monday and Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

VISITACION VALLEY FAMILY/COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER

Can Assist You with the Following:

- *Childcare Referrals
- *Job Search and Sesumes
- *Social Service Referrals
- *English Conversation
- *Completion of Applications and Forms
- *Resolving Problems with Public Agencies
- *Support Groups

Come Visit Us!

These programs are open to all interested groups of people.

161 Leland Avenue

(415) 586-6998 Fax 586-8027